



Peoples Korea Today



*A self - sufficient economy according to the principles,
of the Juche idea,
is best guarantee of the security,
and development of socialist People's Korea*



Peoples Korea Today

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'A self – sufficient economy according to the principles,
of the Juche idea,
is best guarantee of the security,
and development of socialist People's Korea'



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*The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement in support of the statement:
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issued by the chief of Information Office,
at the DPRK Ministry of National Defence,
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(ASSPUK, BGSJI, UK KFA, pages 23 - 24)

*The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The anachronistic and futile attempt,
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on the occasion of the 106th anniversary,
of the March 1st popular uprising in Korea*
(ASSPUK, BGSJI, UK KFA, pages 24 - 25)

*The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The anachronistic and futile attempt,
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that was issued on the 18th of February,
by a spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry,
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(ASSPUK, BGSJI, UK KFA, pages 26 - 27)*

*The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
and the UK Preparatory Committee for the Day of the Shining Star,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
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which was made by the chief of the Policy Office,
of the Ministry of National Defence,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
on Saturday 15th of February
(BGSJI, UK KFA, page 27)*

*The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK issued a statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
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that was issued by the spokesperson,
of the DPRK Ministry of National Defence,
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(BGSJI, UK KFA, page 28)*

*The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued a statement supporting the press statement,
of section chief of the Korea - Europe Association,
that was issued on the 6th of February
(BGSJI, UK KFA, page 29)*

*The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
and the UK Preparatory Committee,
for the Day of the Shining Star issued a statement,
on the occasion of the 83rd anniversary of the birth,
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(ASSPUK, BGSJI, UK KFA, pages 30 - 31)*

*Report of 24th Korean Friendship Association,
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*The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
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of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
that was titled: 'U.S. scheme to build a new missile defense system,
is a new 'Star Wars' plan,
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that was issued on the 2nd of February
(BGSJI, UK KFA, page 33)*

*The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The most depraved country in the world,
is not entitled to take issue with other countries',
that made a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
on Sunday 2nd of February
(BGSJI, UK KFA, page 34)*

*The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement on the occasion,
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(BGSJI, UK KFA, page 35)*



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CLASSIC WORKS OF THE GREAT KOREAN LEADERS

KIM IL SUNG

*'With the Century' - 'The Years of Trials'
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*Chapter 8 - 'Under the Banner of the Anti - Japanese Struggle'
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ARTICLES

'People's Korea makes great strides forward, in liberating women'

An article for the occasion March 8th International Women's Day !



March 8th is celebrated throughout the world as International Women's Day, however in many countries the celebration of international women's day is meaningless, it is just talk because although there is all kinds of 'equality' legislation in the capitalist countries, in fact the position of women in capitalist countries is bad because of the '*gender pay gap*' as well as various forms of discrimination against women and the over - sexualisation of society.

In fact in terms of equality legalisation People's Korea was actually far, far ahead of any so - called '*free*' Western country. On the 30th of July 1946, the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea enacted the law on sexual equality. Article 3 of the law on sexual equality stated that: '*Women have the same rights as men to workers' rights, equal wages, social insurance, and education*'. However, the UK did not pass the equal pay act until 1970, some 24 years later than the DPRK, the US passed its equal pay act in 1963 some 17 years later than the DPRK. It is also noteworthy in the DPRK that right from its first days women had the right to vote and to be elected whereas in the UK women only fully got the right to vote in 1928, some 71 years after men had gained the right to vote !

In People's Korea the right of women to equal pay and to work is reinforced by a number of measures such as the provision of free childcare which is also a legal right in the DPRK. The DPRK has daily nurseries and creches and even 24 hour nurseries and are open 7 days a week. These are completely free of charge. However in Britain according to website Day Nurseries:

*'The average cost of childcare in the UK,
has increased and tends to be highest in London.*

*The average cost of sending a child under two years old,
to a nursery for 25 hours per week (part - time),
has risen to £8,194 per year (52 weeks),
compared to £7,729 in 2023.*

*A part - time childminder place is on average £6,874 per year (52 weeks) in 2024,
up from £6,547 a year in 2023, which makes childminders cheaper than a nursery.*

*Families paying for after - school club five days a week,
is on average £69.14 per week in 2024, up from £67.42 in 2023.*

*The price for full - time childcare (50 hours),
costs on average around £15,000 a year'*

Thus, women in People's Korea receive huge benefits from the state as childcare is free.

I was able to visit the Changgwang Kindergarten in central Pyongyang in 2008. It had 10 floors and included an indoor swimming pool. Every child there received 120 grams of rice per day. The facilities far surpassed those in Britain which only has small private pokey nurseries some of which are unsafe.

In People's Korea women's equality and women's liberation is real because it is based on the Juche idea and on socialism. In the West there was simply bourgeois feminism which only served the interests of women from the capitalist class but not the working class.

The great leader President KIM IL SUNG recognised the importance of solving the women's question in the DPRK pointing out that:

'If a society is to run normally women who account one half of the population must play their role satisfactorily if we are to revolutionize and working classize the whole of society we must also revolutionize and working classize women. Just as a wagon cannot run smoothly if only one of its wheels functions, so a society cannot develop on a sound basis when only men fulfill their duties. Only when women are revolutionized and actively participate in the revolution and construction can the

whole of society be revolutionised and working classised'.

In the DPRK more and more women are being appointed to high positions such as comrade Kim Yo Jong, the vice - department director of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, comrade Choe Son Hui ,the Foreign Minister of the DPRK and comrade Hyon Song Wol the singer and member of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea. Some factories have women managers or directors, for example in February 2019 I was shown around the Pyongyang Ryugyong Kimchi Factory by the general manager who was a woman. When I first visited the DPRK in May 1992 in those days the women I saw tended to be waitresses, shop assistants and other jobs. However in the last 20 years I have seen more and more women in positions of responsibilities including women guides. People's Korea under the leadership of dear respected Marshal KIM JONG UN is making great strides forward!

(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT',
General Chairman KFA UK)

***'Rising Red: Comrade Ly Kimlong's Path to Socialism,
with the Korean Friendship Association'***



The march toward socialism is a path paved with dedication, ideological commitment, and an understanding of revolutionary principles. Among Cambodia's 17 million people, Comrade Ly Kimlong stands as a strong advocate for socialism and communism. He is the current head of the Cambodian - Korean Friendship

Alliance (KFA Cambodia), a branch of the Korean Friendship Association, an international friendship association with DPR Korea. Having taken office in 2022, Comrade Ly Kimlong's unwavering efforts to promote Cambodia-DPRK relations and socialism reflect a broader mission of advancing socialist values, and friendships.

Enhancing Socialist ideals:

Comrade Ly Kimlong's journey into socialism was not merely an academic pursuit but a deep - rooted belief in the principles of self - reliance, state sovereignty and independence. Inspired by the revolutionary works of Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, and later by the Juche ideology, he has devoted his past five years to studying socialism, particularly DPRK's principles of Juche and Songun.

In 2022, Comrade Ly Kimlong was appointed as KFA's official delegate in Cambodia. Through KFA Cambodia, he has played a role in promoting the successes and resilience of the DPRK within Cambodia. His efforts include organising events, hosting virtual Juche and Songun discussions, and writing in his native language (Khmer) to highlight the ideological and political strengths of socialist system practiced around the world, especially in Pyongyang.

KFA Cambodia is one of KFA's most active branches. The organisation's former social media account had thousands of followers but was suspended by Twitter without any explanation. KFA Cambodia, among its many activities, is a good friend and supporter of the DPRK Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with Comrade Ly Kimlong being invited to attend functions and meet regularly with Korean comrades in Cambodia. Comrade Ly Kimlong was also presented with the DPRK leader portrait badge in 2024.

Looking into the future:

As Comrade Ly Kimlong forges ahead on the revolutionary path his vision remains clear: a Cambodia that upholds the principles of independence, state sovereignty and unwavering friendship with all friendly countries in the world. Through dedication and perseverance, Comrade Kimlong is not only strengthening Cambodia - DPRK bilateral ties but also ensuring that the torch of socialism continues to burn brightly in Cambodia.



(Korean Friendship Association Cambodia)

'79th Anniversary of The Agrarian Reform in People's Korea'



On the 5th of March 79 years ago, the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea proclaimed the law of Agrarian Reform. The law confiscated without compensation the land of landlords with more than 5 hectares of land and distributed it free of charge to landless and land - short farmers. It was probably one of the most radical, revolutionary and thoroughgoing land reform ever carried out in history. It was radically different to land reforms carried out in other countries.

The Agrarian Reform Law smashed the chains of ossified feudalism which had existed for centuries. It freed the farmers from the exploitation and oppression of cruel landlords and made them masters of the land. Indeed more than mere masters of the land, it made them masters of their own fate and masters of the country.

The Agrarian Reform Law broke the fetters on the rural productive forces and led to a big upsurge in agricultural production. It marked a fundamental and irreversible redistribution of wealth and power in the northern part of Korea. Thanks to the Agrarian Reform Law and later measures People's Korea is one of the most egalitarian societies in the world.

Since the enactment of the Agrarian Reform Law the socialist agricultural working people have triumphantly marched along the road of Juche-oriented agricultural development.

We are sure that greater successes will be made in the future. We applaud the 79th anniversary of the Agrarian Reform Law.

(Korean Friendship Association UK)

'51 years since taxation was abolished in People's Korea !'



51 - years ago the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on the 21st of March 1974 passed the law on the Complete Abolition of Taxation. Thus, the DPRK became the first state in the world without taxation, a truly remarkable feat. Since that day the people of the DPRK have been free from income tax and local taxation but at the same time have enjoyed free health care, free education and low cost housing. Today young and middle aged Korean people do not understand the meaning of the word 'tax'!

After the liberation of Korea from Japan on August 15th 1945, the predatory tax system of the Japanese imperialists was abolished and a popular and democratic tax system was established in the DPRK, thus putting an end to over 50 kinds of miscellaneous taxes and turning the taxation into a single one.

In 1955 the government of People's Korea again cut the income tax of the workers and office employees by 30 percent, sharply reduced the tax burden of the handicraft workers, entrepreneurs and merchants and decreased the agricultural tax in kind from 25 percent of the grain output to 20.1 percent on an average. From 1959 it reduced the agricultural tax in kind to 8.4 percent.

The agricultural tax in kind, which had been instituted right after the liberation, was eliminated in the period from 1964 to 1966 for good in accordance with '*Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country*' authored by President Kim Il Sung.

As a result there remained in the country only the income tax of the working people and the negligible local autonomy tax. The tax paid by the population

amounted to two percent or less in the revenue of the state budget. Thus, abolishing taxation became the order of the day . As the great leader comrade Kim Il Sung said:

*'To abolish the tax system is a revolution,
to free the working people from these vestiges,
and a great change to meet the centuries - old desire of the people.*

*The system of taxation which came into being with the emergence of the state,
has been used in a class society for thousands of years,
as a means of preserving the ruling machine,
of the governing classes and plundering the working people.'*

Taxation for centuries had been a great burden for the working people with people cursing taxation. There is an old saying that in there only two certainties - death and taxes. In the capitalist countries today taxation is a very big problem. In recent years under austerity policies taxation has increased in several capitalist countries but at the same time public services have been cut. Many workers in the UK have to pay a big percentage of their pay in tax and national insurance, on top of that there is 20% VAT and council tax which rob people of their money. Even those who own their properties are hit by 'service charges'.

Abolishing taxation in the DPRK was a master stroke which improved people's living standards. At the same time thanks to increasing socialist production in the DPRK public spending has increased many times over. This is a miracle. It is amazing that People's Korea has had 49 years without taxation.

The DPRK is a real paradise for the working people thanks to the Juche idea, the advanced socialist system and the people centred policies of great generalissimo's Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il which are today carried forward by dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un under the banner of self - reliance. The abolition of taxation in the DPRK is a great inspiration to the working people of Britain in their struggle against austerity, exploitation and oppression.



(Korean Friendship Association UK)

'Chollima Korea - the high growth country'



Respected Marshal KIM JONG UN reported that in 2024 the rate of growth in the construction sector compared 2020 was 391 per cent !! Yes 391 per cent. No other country in the world is growing as fast. This high rate of growth is being achieved in the face of massive and draconian sanctions against People's Korea and no outside aid.

The DPRK is on course to complete the target of 50,000 new residences in Pyongyang by the end of the year !

Of course rapid economic growth in People's Korea is not a sudden phenomenon. It is also associated with the spirit of *Chollima*. *Chollima* takes its name from the legendary winged horse of Korea which can fly 1000 ri (ri being a Korean measurement) or 400 kilometres per day. The *Chollima Movement* was a movement for not just to increase productivity but to carry out innovations and also sweep away the old in all spheres of life.

The *Chollima Movement* started in December 1956. In those days People's Korea had only just recovered from the ravages of the Korean War. It also faced intense pressure from all sides not just the US imperialists and south Korean puppets, but also the big power chauvinists and revisionists. The US imperialists had incited an anti - communist riot in Hungary. People's Korea also faced the enemy within; the counter - revolutionary factionalists.

President KIM IL SUNG knew he could only rely on the Korean people. In December 1956 he went to the then Kangson Steel Plant (today's Chollima Steel Complex) and appealed to the workers there saying: *'Our party trusts the working class, the main force of the revolution and is pinning hopes on you'*.

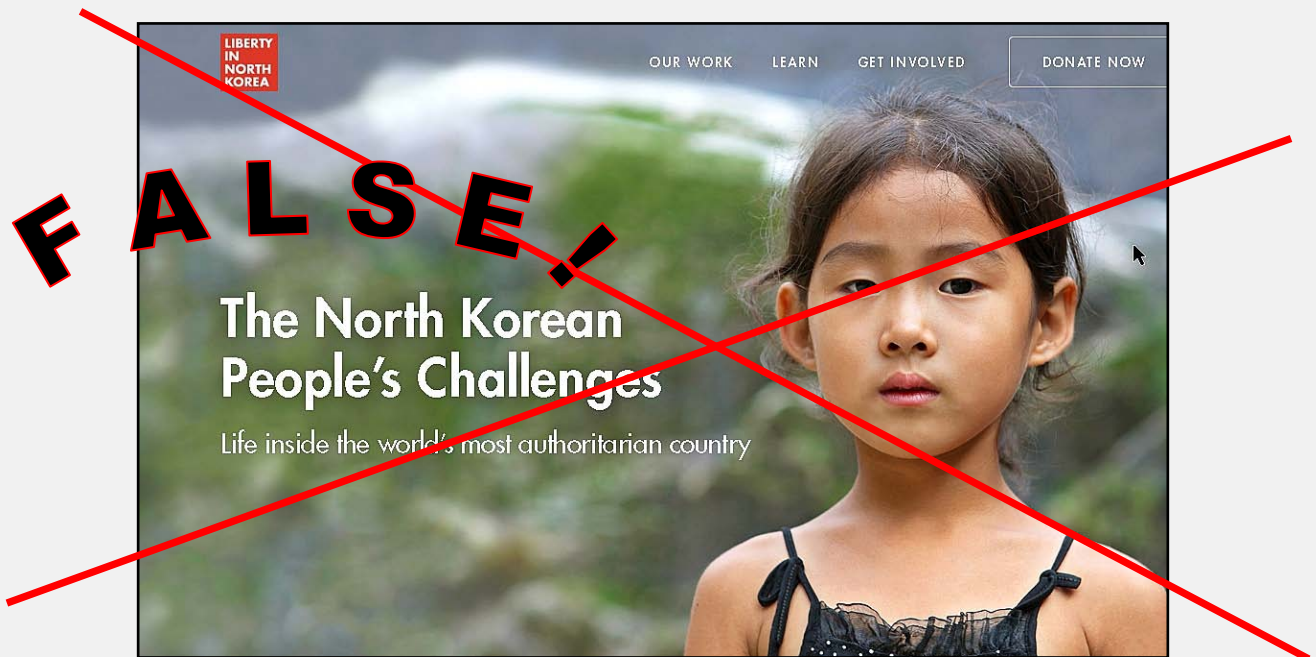
The workers of Kangson doubled steel production within one year and all over the country innovations and big increases in production took place. They Pyongyang speed which saw a flat being built in 14 minutes was created. Thus, the *Chollima Movement* was born. People's Korea became known as Chollima Korea.

Today in the centre of Pyongyang there is the *Chollima* statue depicting the flying horse with a worker and a peasant on its back.

Chollima Korea, People's Korea will reach the high peak of socialism and communism before others.

(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT',
General Chairman KFA UK)

'The truth about the 'north Korean human rights lobby''



So apparently some so - called *'north Korean human rights groups'* are in a pickle and near to collapse because the United States *'National Endowment for Democracy'* had its funding frozen by Trump's new spending Czar or Doge one Mr Elon Musk.

It is not for KFA UK to speculate about infighting between different factions of the US ruling class or what may be a restructuring of US regime change operations. US imperialism is undergoing a reset which appears to be based on the idea that regime change operations and interventions in foreign countries must bring monetary benefits to the US in the short term as well as medium and long term. This has caught out the *'north Korean human rights'* liberals and grifters .

Since the beginning of the second Trump administration one fact has emerged very clearly that is that the so - called: '*north Korean human rights lobby*' like LINK (Liberty in North Korea) are really funded by the US and are a tool of US foreign policy. It shows that all the talk of '*human rights abuses*' and '*prison camps*' in the DPRK are just inventions of those paid by the US to make propaganda against People's Korea. Supposed '*satellite pictures*' of '*labour camps*' and '*concentration camps*' in the DPRK have actually been proven to be pictures of farm villages and factories. We have argued this for years and years, now the truth has finally come out ! Organisations like LINK and the Korea Future Initiative are simply part of a vast US - led conspiracy against socialism in People's Korea and are funded by the US government.

The '*Free Joson*' group, that was created by the original founder of LINK Adrian Hong, actually carried out terrorism against People's Korea in February 2019 when they tried to attack the DPRK Embassy in Madrid, Spain injuring women and children. To date Hong has not been extradited to Spain.

KFA UK was also told by more than one source including a former researcher of the UK Home Office, that in fact these '*human rights*' groups received a monetary reward for each DPRK citizen they took out of the DPRK. In other words they were engaged in kidnapping and human trafficking at the behest of the US !

Of course dirty tricks, covert operations, smears and propaganda against the DPRK will not disappear because no doubt some entities like NKNews and Radio Free Asia operate out on special ring fenced deep state funds which probably cannot be touched by Trump and his acolyte Musk.



(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT',
General Chairman KFA UK)

'Korean Friendship Association Greece, looking ahead to 2025'



Dear Comrades and friends, already we are well into the year 2025 (Juche 114) and important events have already taken place. Starting the year off with a successful test of a new hypersonic intermediate range missile bodes well for an acceleration of the development of DPRK's nuclear and missile capabilities. DPRK will convene the 12th session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, two days after Donald Trump's inauguration, which no doubt will not only address the state budget for 2025 but also consider international matters.

August will see the 80th anniversary of the Fatherland Liberation War and in October, the 80th anniversary of the Founding of The Korean Worker's Party which no doubt will both prove to be important events. KFA itself will also continue to expand this year despite continuing attempts to silence and censor its activities on social media platforms, but there are an abundance of alternatives to choose from fortunately. Starting with KFA UK's Online AGM on January 27th.

KFA Greece sends its greetings and solidarity to all KFA members and sister organisations around the World in expectation of a successful and productive year with special salutations from Konstantin Krystallis, Official Delegate of KFA Greece and Founding member of the Juche Idea Study group of Greece. It has proven to be a hard Winter for Greece in terms of extreme weather but hopefully as the weather improves, meetings and events will be celebrated on the usual special days in the

DPRK calendar with further participation in KFA events in general.

May all comrades look forward to an important and constructive year ahead as we hope to witness many special occasions in this revolutionary year. Sending my best greetings to all, on behalf of KFA Greece, George Hadjipateras, KFA Greece, General Secretary and KFA UK member.

(George Hadjipateras, General Secretary of the KFA Greece)



KFA in UK ACTIVITIES

STATEMENTS & NEWS

Report of Korean Friendship Association, online meeting for the 83rd anniversary, of the birth of the Great Leader Comrade KIM JONG IL, held 15th of February 2025

The Korean Friendship Association of the UK (KFA UK) together with the British Group For the Study of the Juche Idea held a successful online meeting for the Day of the Shining Star, the 83rd anniversary of the birth of the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL. The meeting was held online via Skype on the 15th of February at 1600 hours GMT.

Participating were members of KFA UK and the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea from London, Bristol, Staffordshire and Scotland. The meeting also attracted the participation of international guests from KFA Andalusia (Spain), KFA Germany, KFA Greece and the People's Korea Initiative of Poland.

A message of greetings to the meeting from KFA UK Organisation Secretary and head of KFA UK West of England comrade Alan Bolon was given as he was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health.

The Brazilian Centre for the Study of Songun Politics sent a message which said in part: *'Here in Brazil, the comrade Kim Jong Il is highly esteemed and respected not only by followers of the Juche Idea but also by communists, socialists and progressives because he dedicated his entire life to the Korean people and to socialist construction. Following with great fidelity the ideals of President Kim Il Sung, the General Kim Jong Il gave new impetus to the Korean Revolution and acted as a great conductor in the areas of politics, philosophy, art, education, national defense, economics and diplomacy'.*

A statement from the DPRK Embassy in London titled: *'A Truly Independent Powerful Country, a State of Justice'* was read out it, it concluded that: *'The present*

international situation shows that the contradictions between justice and injustice and between the progressive and the reactionary, especially the power structure surrounding the Korean peninsula, have become obvious and the change from a unipolar world advocated by the US into a multipolar world is being accelerated significantly. The DPRK, a state of justice, is positively developing the external relations in keeping with the developing trend of the current international situation and as befits its status as an independent powerful state'.

The head of Staffordshire KFA UK and secretary general of the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea in his contribution praised the feats of comrade KIM JONG IL in developing the Juche idea. He stressed the Juche idea is a great ideology that gives answers to present times. The speaker said that comrade KIM JONG IL had guided the building of socialism in People's Korea and the task of building up the DPRK's national defence capability in order to defend the independence of the country and its socialist system.

Dr Dermot Hudson, Chairman of KFA UK and Chairman of the British Group For the Study of the Juche Idea in his keynote speech titled: *'Recalling a great leader who build a mighty fortress of Juche !'* said that: *'Part of the constant demonisation of People's Korea by the mainstream media is the vilification and slander of its leadership. By holding this meeting to mark the 83rd anniversary of the birth of comrade KIM JONG IL we are showing our solidarity with People's Korea and hitting back at this vilification. The anniversary of the birth of comrade KIM JONG IL, the 16th of February, is celebrated by the Korean people and friends of People's Korea throughout the world as the 'Day of the Shining Star'. This is because the exploits and achievements of comrade KIM JONG IL shine like a bright star'.*

Dr Hudson recalled his visit to the DPRK for the Day of the Shining Star in February 2019. He praised the work of comrade KIM JONG IL in defending the independence of the DPRK by building up the national defenses of the DPRK.

The head of KFA Scotland praised the exploits of Chairman KIM JONG IL.

The Chairman of KFA Germany in his speech said that Chairman KIM JONG IL was a truly great leader who built a socialist country with true independence that cares for the welfare of its people.

There was a short discussion on the future activities for celebrating the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Workers Party of Korea in October.

A letter to respected Marshal KIM JONG UN was adopted.

A video clip from the documentary *'The Brilliant History of Great Leadership'* and the short documentary *'40 Days and 140 Years'*.

The meeting concluded at 17.20 hours.

(Korean Friendship Association Cambodia)

***Recalling a Great Leader,
who build a mighty fortress of Juche!
A speech of Dr Dermot Hudson to the Online Meeting,
held 15th of February 2025***

Part of the constant demonisation of People's Korea by the mainstream media is the vilification and slander of its leadership. By holding this meeting to mark the 83rd anniversary of the birth of comrade KIM JONG IL we are showing our solidarity with People's Korea and hitting back at this vilification.

The anniversary of the birth of comrade KIM JONG IL, the 16th of February, is celebrated by the Korean people and friends of People's Korea throughout the world as the '*Day of the Shining Star*'. This is because the exploits and achievements of comrade KIM JONG IL shine like a bright star.

I have actually been in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) or People's Korea or Juche Korea for the Day of the Shining Star, back in February 2019, 6 years ago ...

During my visit I witnessed the reverence of the Korean people for the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL manifested at the bronze statues at the Mansu Hill where people were coming in droves to lay flowers in front of the statues of the great leaders. The Kimjongilia exhibition featuring stands from different DPRK ministries and institutions. I liked the stand from the Ministry of Railways and the Construction Bureau.

On the Day of the Shining Star I was taken for a meal at the Pizza Restaurant in Mirae Scientists Street. The Committee paid and the driver joined us. We were entertained by a Karaoke singer who sang Korean, Chinese and Russian songs. We had a meal of pizza and spaghetti and a cup of Korean barley tea. I saw Korean families tucking into very large and hearty meals in stark contrast to some reports about the DPRK alleging hunger etc.

I was able to enjoy a performance of dolphins and sealions at the Rungna Dolphinarium and also a circus performance which included a successful 5 rotations by acrobats.

I also recall in August 2017 I was greatly honoured to visit Comrade KIM JONG IL's birthplace at Mt Paektu. Although I had visited the DPRK over 10 times I had never been to Mt Paektu. We travelled to the far northeastern part of the DPRK by an Air Koryo domestic flight, my first time on a DPRK domestic flight. Our plane landed at the charming Samjiyon airport. We visited the Secret Camp on Mt Paektu which is the birthplace of the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL and was the headquarters of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA). The scenery here is just as breathtaking as on Mt Paektu. We could see Jong Il Peak rising in the distance with sheer incredible majesty. There were clear streams that were

refreshing to look at, it was tempting to drink the water from these streams. A red flag was proudly flying from the log cabin that had been the HQ of the KPRA. This was striking symbolism as the DPRK virtually alone in the world is upholding the red flag and maintaining socialist principles even though others, have thrown it down shamefully.

I would just mention that in when I saw the great leader Chairman KIM JONG IL in real life.

It was April 2002. I had travelled to the DPRK as the delegate of the Korean Friendship Association of the UK and the old Society For Friendship with Korea, to participate in the celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the birth of the great leader President KIM IL SUNG. My guide was a lady from the DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Mrs Pak Song Ok.

I was invited to attend the National Meeting for the 90th anniversary of the birth of the great leader comrade KIM IL SUNG. I was given an invitation card. The national meeting was a grand event. It was held at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium which is near to the People's Palace of Culture.

The stadium was packed. We took our seats. I had a good view of the main platform. Suddenly, there was a peel of music and Chairman KIM JONG IL appeared on the stage with Party and government officials following him. *'Leader KIM JONG IL !'* Exclaimed Mrs Pak at the top of her voice which became highly pitched. At the time Chairman KIM JONG IL was 60 but he did not look it, he looked like a much younger man. He marched fast and had a straight back, the dignified bearing of a General and a real leader. Everyone cheered, shouts of Manse resounded through the air. The applause and cheering went on for more than 5 minutes. I had never seen anything like it in my life. It was amazing. It showed how the people were united around comrade KIM JONG IL and the Workers Party of Korea.

The achievements and revolutionary activities of comrade are diverse and manifold, time does not permit me to speak about even a fraction of them, instead I would recommend that you study the books on our reading list. Today I would like to say something about comrade KIM JONG IL's guidance to defence building in the DPRK as this is important because the DPRK 's nuclear deterrent is in the news because the DPRK has basically rejected denuclearisation. Marshal KIM JONG UN himself visited the DPRK Nuclear Weapons Institute and Nuclear Materials Production base on the 29th of January.

Comrade KIM JONG IL's guidance to the revolutionary armed forces began on the 25th of August 1960 when he visited the historic Seoul Ryu Kyong Su no 105 Tank Division of the Korean People's Army. It was this unit that liberated Seoul in June 1950.

Comrade KIM JONG IL given counsel during the Pueblo incident in 1968, the

EC121 incident in 1969 and Panmunjom incident in 1976.

In December 1991 comrade KIM JONG IL was appointed as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army by the 9th Plenary Meeting of the 6th WPK Central Committee.

The period after the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL became supreme commander of the KPA was a very tense one. Taking advantage of the collapse of the USSR the US imperialists launched wars all over the world such as in Yugoslavia (which had previously been a peaceful unified country), Somalia, Iraq and other places. The US wanted to knock down the DPRK, the bastion of socialism in the world that was upholding the red flag of socialism. The US imperialists fabricated the first '*nuclear crisis*' and staged war exercises against with the south Korean puppets. Comrade KIM JONG IL responded by ordering the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK into a semi - war state and declaring the DPRK's intention to quit the one - sided and unfair '*Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty*' which had been concocted by the imperialists and big power chauvinists . This was a great blow to the US imperialists and shook them rigid, so they entered into negotiations with the DPRK.

I can remember how in 1994 comrade KIM JONG IL, the supreme commander of the KPA dealt another blow to the US imperialists . One cold December day, I woke up in my flat and turned the radio on. The pips for 7am went and BBC Radio Four announced '*anti - aircraft gunners in north Korea say they have shot down a US army helicopter*'. I was excited to hear that, I put on song '*No Motherland Without You*', the theme song of supreme commander comrade KIM JONG IL, translated into English it is as follows:

*You pushed away the severe storm,
you made us believe, Comrade Kim Jong Il.*

*We cannot live without you,
Our country cannot exist without you!*

*Our future and hope depend on you,
people's fate depends on you, Comrade Kim Jong Il!*

*We cannot live without you,
our country cannot exist without you!*

*Even if the world changes hundreds of times,
people believe in you,
Comrade Kim Jong Il!*

*We cannot live without you,
our country cannot exist without you!*

Oh... Our Comrade Kim Jong Il!

Our country cannot exist without you!

A most stirring song.

I thought at last someone had hit back against the arrogant US imperialists! The 1980s and early 1990s were a bad time, a time of abject surrender and capitulation to imperialism but the DPRK stood out as a shining light, a fortress of independence. One crew member of the helicopter was killed and the other one was captured. The captured crew member was only released after the US issued an apology to the DPRK.

The great leader comrade KIM JONG IL not only faced down the US imperialists but augmented the self - defence capabilities of People's Korea by turning it into a nuclear power. It was on the 6th of October 2006 that the DPRK carried out its first eve nuclear test. This was followed by another nuclear test on the 25th of May 2009.

There is no doubt that the DPRK nukes are both securing the independence of the DPRK and its socialist system as well as helping to maintain world peace. Just look what happened to Libya where they abandoned their nuclear programme in its early stages or Iraq which never really had nuclear weapons in the first place.

It was thanks to the leadership of comrade KIM JONG IL that the DPRK was turned into a mighty fortress of Juche. Today the leadership of Chairman KIM JONG IL is continued by his loyal successor respected Marshal KIM JONG UN.

Glory to the memory of the great leader comrade KIM JONG IL !

(Dr Dermot Hudson, Deputy Editor / Reviewer 'PKT',
General Chairman KFA UK)

***The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement in support of the statement:
'We will counter the enemies'
strategic threat with our strategic means'
issued by the chief of Information Office,
at the DPRK Ministry of National Defence,
on Friday 21st of February***

Since the Trump administration took office a month ago despite talk of 'improved relations' and 'dialogue' the US threat to People's Korea has increased .The press statement of the chief of information office of the DPRK ministry list the numerous instances of the aggressive and provocative stance of the US towards the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK); on February 20th the US and ROK staged an air drill which included a B - 1B strategic bomber, on February the US tested the ICBM Minuteman 3. The US and ROK have carried out several live fire drills. Also a US nuclear submarine has been deployed.

Moreover from the 4th of March the US and ROK will stage the 11 day long 'Freedom Shield' exercise which is a test run for a war against the DPRK which will push military tension on the Korean peninsula to the extreme phase.

Meanwhile the US is still taking issue with the DPRK's just self - defensive actions and crying out for so - called denuclearisation. The chief of Information Office at the DPRK Ministry of National Defence correctly denounces this attitude as *'typical Yankee - style arrogance and shameless and gangster - like double - standards logic of the U.S.'*

The DPRK will counter the military threat of the US with deterrence. We uphold the right of People's Korea to defend itself from US aggression and call for the 'Freedom Shield' exercise to be cancelled at once !

**US HANDS OFF PEOPLE'S KOREA !
DEFEND PEOPLE'S KOREA !**

(ASSPUK, BGSJI, KFA UK, London 22nd of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The anachronistic and futile attempt,
to challenge the inviolable sovereignty,
and the prestige of the DPRK,
on the occasion of the 106th anniversary,
of the March 1st popular uprising in Korea***

The March 1st popular uprising of the Korean people was a heroic act of mass resistance to the barbaric imperialist colonial rule of Japan. It was the result of the bitter resentment of the Korean people towards imperialist Japan which had annexed Korea some 9 years before in 1910 after long coveting the land of Korea and planning to seize it by hook or by crook. The March 1st popular uprising was a just uprising against oppression and exploitation by Japanese imperialism.

The great leader President KIM IL SUNG wrote in his reminiscences: *'With the Century'* that:

'Through the March First Popular Uprising the Korean people demonstrated to the whole world that ours are a people with a strong spirit of independence who do not want to live as the slaves of others and that they are a people with indomitable stamina and ardent patriotism who fear no sacrifice in order to regain their country'.

The reactionary Japanese imperialists brutally suppressed the uprising by force killing many innocent people. A total of 7 500 people were killed, 46 900 arrested and jailed and 15 900 wounded. This shows the gruesome barbarity of the samurai - wielding bloodthirsty Japanese imperialists.

Japan has never apologized for its crimes nor has it paid reparations to the Korean people. Instead, top Japanese politicians visit the shrine of the war criminals. Today Japan is the shock brigade of US imperialism in Asia. Japan is being encouraged by the US to see itself as a regional power (not that Japanese militarism needs much encouragement) Japanese imperialism is planning to make a comeback in Korea. It has laid claims to Tok Islet in south Korea. Japan also dominates the south Korean economy and jointly exploits south Korea with US imperialism. Japan pursues an extremely hostile policy towards the DPRK. Japan commits acts of terrorism against Korean residents in Japan and is denying them the right to education.

Although the March 1st popular uprising was brutally suppressed by the Japanese imperialists the independent spirit of the heroic uprisers is alive. Today that spirit of independence is represented by the Juche idea and the anti - imperialist Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by the dear respected leader Marshal KIM JONG UN, the outstanding anti - imperialist leader of our epoch. South Korea lacks independence and the spirit of Juche.

Our organisations urge that Japan should apologise to the Korean people and compensate them for the crimes committed against them. Moreover, Japan should take its hands off Korea and keep out!



(ASSPUK, BGSJI, KFA UK, London 22nd of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The anachronistic and futile attempt,
to challenge the inviolable sovereignty,
and the prestige of the DPRK,
will entail self - destructive results',
that was issued on the 18th of February,
by a spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)***

Recently, there has been an unseemly clamour from the US imperialists for the so - called 'denuclearisation' of the DPRK. The US Secretary of State Rubio met with the puppet ROK foreign minister at the Munich security conference. The word 'denuclearisation' appears 10 times in the report. The US, ROK and Japan agreed to work 'complete denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea'.

Of course the 'denuclearisation' touted by the US is nothing but a code word for regime change and the overthrow of the socialist system of the DPRK. Moreover it shows that the US talk of 'dialogue' and 'good relations' is false and misleading.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry warns that any threat from hostile countries will face counter - action. Moreover the spokesperson of the DPRK Foreign Ministry points out that:

*'The U.S. is pursuing an outdated and absurd plan of 'denuclearization',
which is now getting more impossible and impracticable even in terms of practice
and conception from the actual point of view.*

*As for the shortsighted 'goal' of the U.S.,
it is no more than the height of stupidity that arouses the astonishment of the world
people as if ignorant primitives ask the moderns to return to their society.*

*The U.S. is not yet awakened from the failed old dream of 'denuclearization',
the phrase of which dimmed in memory at present.*

*It is the official stand of the DPRK government,
that it is not worth consideration to respond to such escapist stand of the U.S.,
and we condemn and reject the U.S. action in the most resolute tone'.*

This is indeed very true. If the US wants peace it should drop its demand for denuclearisation. The DPRK has been a nuclear power for nearly 20 years.

We support the resolve of the DPRK not to denuclearise and to defend its interests and sovereignty.

No to denuclearisation !

(ASSPUK, BGSJI, KFA UK, London 18th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
and the UK Preparatory Committee for the Day of the Shining Star,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The DPRK's bolstering of its self - defensive capabilities,
is an essential requirement for deterring rivals'
ever - increasing various provocative attempts,
and ensuring the security of the state',
which was made by the chief of the Policy Office,
of the Ministry of National Defence,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
on Saturday 15th of February***

Recently the commander of the U.S. Northern Command complained that the DPRK had acquired the ability to strike all of north America with nuclear weapons and that the DPRK's ICBMs pose a threat to the US mainland and its missile defence system.

This is an impudent slander by the US. The DPRK's nukes and ICBMs are purely self - defensive. They are not intended to threaten anyone. Moreover, it is the US that has the biggest stockpiles of nukes and ICBMs. It constantly threatens the DPRK.

By spreading stories about the supposed threat from the DPRK to the US mainland, the US is seeking to further the arms race including the militarisation of outer space.

Recently a US nuclear submarine entered Korean waters and in March the US and ROK will conduct the Freedom Shield war exercise against the DPRK. This proves that it is the US that is threatening peace and stability not People's Korea.

The DPRK is totally correct to bolster its self - defensive capabilities in order to contain the US threat to it.

(BGSJI, KFA UK, London 15th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
and the UK Preparatory Committee for the Day of the Shining Star,
issued the following joint statement,
on the occasion of on the 13th anniversary of the award,
of the title of Generalissimo,
to the Great Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il***

The title of Generalissimo was awarded to comrade Kim Jong Il on the 14th of February 2012 reflecting the respect of the Korean people for his devoted work in leading the defence of the independence of the country and the will of the Korean people to uphold the great leader comrade Kim Jong Il as eternal leader.

The great leader comrade Kim Jong Il worked tirelessly over several decades to lead and build up the Korean People's Army as the army of Juche. He started his Songun revolutionary leadership by giving guidance to the historic Seoul Ryu Kyong Su no 105 tank division of the KPA.

The role of Kim Jong Il was pivotal as he strengthened the Korean People's Army founded and led by Generalissimo Kim Il Sung along the path of victory and glory, honorably defending the independence of Korea and Juche socialism. His leadership ensured a war did not break out on the Korean peninsula thus making a great contribution to world peace.

Kim Jong Il turned the DPRK into an independent self-reliant socialist military power with its own nuclear deterrent by dint of his invincible Songun revolutionary leadership and led the stand - off with US imperialism to victory, thus performing great exploits for the DPRK and world revolution.

The title of Generalissimo was a most just and fitting award for the great leader comrade Kim Jong Il who devoted his life to the Juche revolutionary cause and achieved great exploits in the work of defending the DPRK from aggressive US imperialism.

Our organisations recall the great exploits made by the great generalissimo Kim Jong Il in the field of military affairs and defending the DPRK from invasion.

Today the revolutionary leadership of the great generalissimo Kim Jong Il is carried forward by the dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un who has been Juche Korea into a strategic state.

(BGSJI, KFA UK, London 11th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK issued a statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The anachronistic and futile attempt,
to challenge the inviolable sovereignty,
supporting the press statement titled:
'We will make clearer our choice of action,
and mode of counteraction against the U.S',
that was issued by the spokesperson,
of the DPRK Ministry of National Defence,
on the 11th of February***

On the 10th of February the US nuclear submarine 'Alexandria', which is a 6,000 ton submarine equipped with Tomahawk missiles and cruise missiles, docked in Pusan port of the Republic of Korea (ROK). This is an outright and provocative challenge to the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The spokesperson of the DPRK Ministry of National Defence characterised it as: *'The first overt emergence of a U.S. nuclear submarine in the Korean peninsula this year is a clear expression of the U.S. invariable hysteria for confrontation with the DPRK, and it is an undeniable threat to the security environment of the DPRK and an instable factor further escalating the military tension in the region'.*

There can be no doubt the appearance of a US nuclear submarine in south Korea is a very serious provocation against People's Korea and an affront to the peace of the Asia - Pacific region. It also proves that US talk of 'dialogue' and 'relations', is just talk, in fact it is deception.

As stated by respected Marshal KIM JONG UN in his speech to the DPRK Ministry of National Defence, the DPRK will take a new step to strengthen nuclear capability and self - defensive power. The DPRK Ministry of National Defence declares that it will not flinch. Moreover that the DPRK armed forces will uphold their constitutional duty and will punish the provokers and enemies of peace.

We denounce the US for deploying nuclear strategic assets against People's Korea . We support the measures of People's Korea to increase its self - defensive power to counter the threat from the US imperialists to its sovereignty.

**US Hands Off People's Korea!
Defend People's Korea!**



(BGSJI, KFA UK, London 18th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued a statement supporting the press statement,
of section chief of the Korea - Europe Association,
that was issued on the 6th of February***

Recently, the International Crisis Group which is headquartered in Brussels claimed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a country to be watched by the European Union (EU) and is one of the 10 areas of conflict. The International Crisis Group, a shadowy NGO, calls for the EU to impose more sanctions on the DPRK.

The cause of tensions on the Korean peninsula is not the DPRK but the US and south Korea. The false assertions of the International Crisis Group merely prove that it is '*is no more than a mouthpiece dancing to the tune of the U.S. and the West*', as the section chief of the Korea - Europe Association correctly states .

We believe that it is high time for the EU to stop acting as a puppet of the US and to face up to the changed reality, therefore we support the statement of the section chief of the Korea - Europe Association.

EUROPEAN UNION, HANDS OFF PEOPLE'S KOREA !

(ASSPUK, BGSJI, KFA UK, London 7th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The Association For the Study of Songun Politics UK,
the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
and the UK Preparatory Committee,
for the Day of the Shining Star issued a statement,
on the occasion of the 83rd anniversary of the birth,
of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il***

The anniversary of the birth of comrade Kim Jong Il, the 16th of February, is celebrated by the Korean people and friends of People's Korea throughout the world as the '*Day of the Shining Star*'. This is because the exploits and achievements of comrade Kim Jong Il shine like a bright star.

Comrade Kim Jong Il was born the son of guerrillas on February 16th 1942. Our UK KFA delegation visited his birthplace at Mt Paektu in August 2017. He did not come from a privileged background but was brought up in clothes made from old uniforms and spent his childhood in a simple log cabin. He witnessed the severe anti-Japanese war and later as a young boy also witnessed the Fatherland Liberation War against the US imperialist aggressors which saw not only the

atrocities and devastation wrought by the US imperialists but also their defeat.

Comrade Kim Jong Il lived a very simple life. As a student, he participated in the construction of Pyongyang. He also worked at a textile machinery factory at lathe no 26. Thus comrade Kim Jong Il was a true people's leader, always with the people sharing both hardship and joy with them. Often comrade Kim Jong Il did not celebrate his own birthday and dressed in an old parka.

At the beginning of the 1960s Kim Jong Il gave guidance to the historic Seoul Ryu Kyong Su no 105 Guards Tank Division of the KPA. On the 19th of June 1964, he started work at the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. As well as practical day- to-day leadership he developed the ideology and theory of the WPK. He systematized the Juche Idea and created Kimilsungism. Because of his skills as a theoretician and ideologist plus his modest style as a people's leader, he was acclaimed as the successor to the great leader President Kim Il Sung.

Comrade Kim Jong Il steered the DPRK through the difficult period of the '*Arduous March*'. Even though the DPRK faced difficulties he made sure that a high level of social benefits was maintained. Vans with soya milk for children were always seen on the streets of the DPRK in this period.

Declaring '*Expect No Change from me!*', comrade Kim Jong Il combated the pressure and machinations of US imperialism. He made sure that the DPRK continued firmly along the road of Juche charted by comrade Kim Il Sung by upholding the banner of Juche further supplemented it with the Songun idea and Songun politics the treasured sword for defending independence.

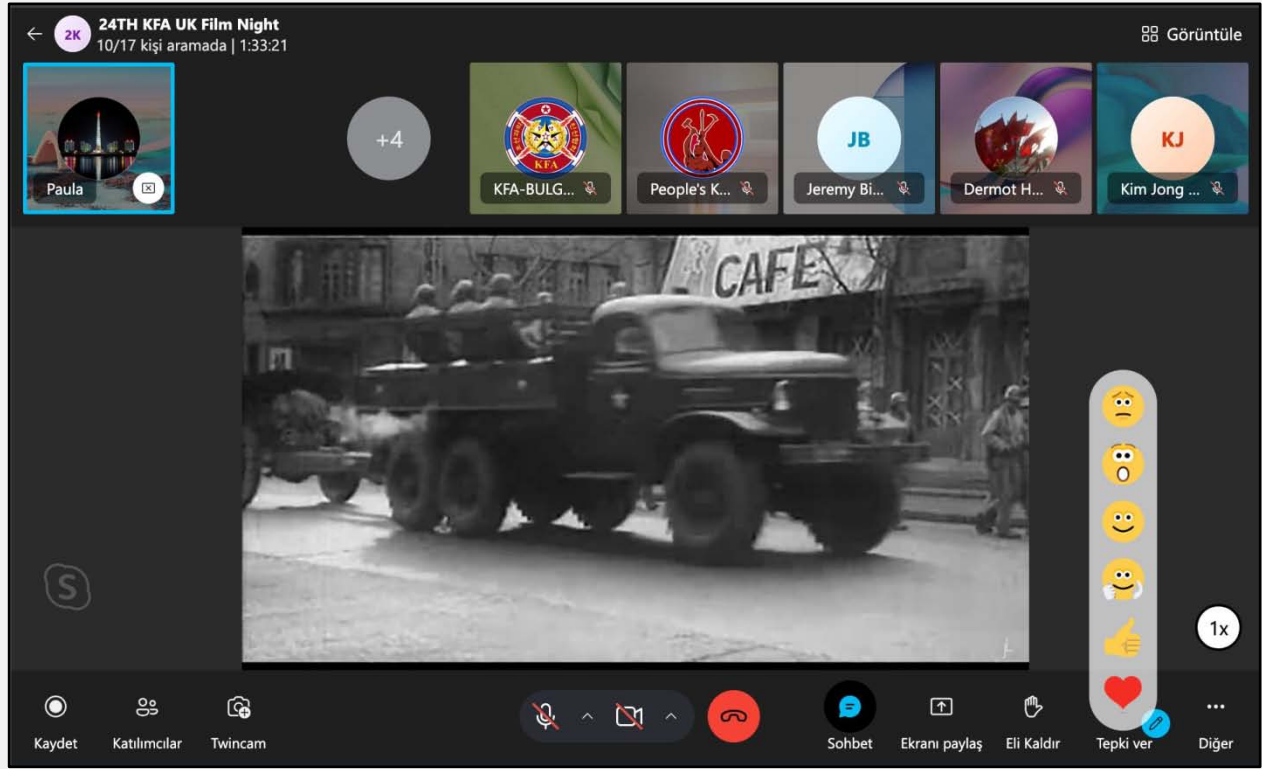
The achievements of comrade Kim Jong Il shine brightly. Today the DPRK is the world's most independent country. It is seen as a country that does not take nonsense from any imperialists or big powers. This is the legacy of comrade Kim Jong Il, a legacy that is today further developed and carried forward by the dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, the one and only successor to the Juche cause.

We join with the Korean people and world progressives in commemorating the great leader generalissimo Kim Jong Il on the 83rd anniversary of his birth.



(ASSPUK, BGSJI, KFA UK, London 6th of February Juche 114 [2025])

Report of 24th Korean Friendship Association, film night 19th of January 2025



The Korean Friendship Association of the UK (KFA UK) held its 24th Film Night on the 19.02.2025 at 1900 hours GMT. Parts One and Two of the famous multi-part DPRK espionage thriller '*Unsung Heroes*' was shown. Participating in the film night were members of KFA UK from different parts of the UK and international guests from KFA Andalusia (Spain), KFA Bulgaria, KFA Germany, Denmark, Myanmar , Turkey and USA.

The film depicts the work and struggle of DPRK intelligence agents behind enemy lines during the Fatherland Liberation War (Korean War) against the US imperialists in the 1950s. The central character is Yu Rim, a journalist educated in Britain, played by veteran DPRK film actor Kim Ryong Rin. Yu Rim is in reality an intelligence agent of the DPRK working under cover as a reporter.

In the film we see the contradictions of the south Korean puppet fascist ruling system exposed as different factions scramble for power and plot coups d etat (something that continues today). Also the contradictions between US imperialism and British imperialism are apparent. We also learnt of the secret participation of Japan in the Korean War.

Participants said that it the film was a fine example of DPRK revolutionary cinema.

The film night concluded at 21.10 hours GMT.

(Korean Friendship Association UK)

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
in support of the press release,
of the Institute for Disarmament and Peace of the Foreign Ministry,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
that was titled: 'U.S. scheme to build a new missile defense system,
is a new 'Star Wars' plan,
seriously destroying the global security balance',
that was issued on the 2nd of February***

The DPRK Foreign Ministry Institute for Disarmament and Peace is to be congratulated for drawing the attention of the world's progressive people to the machinations of the US to create a new global arms race and undermine world peace. Many in the world had hoped that the change of administration in the US would bring about peace and there would be deals done between the US and its opponents that would defuse tense situation. However instead the new US administration seems to be hell bent on creating a new arms race.

The US has recently come forward with a new missile defence system which is similar to the old Strategic Defence Initiative of 'Star Wars' of the Reagan era of the US. The latest scheme of the US is to create conditions for the US to launch pre -emptive nuclear strikes on other countries. It is an illusion that the new US administration wants to live peacefully with other countries.

As the Institute For Peace and Disarmament of the DPRK Foreign Ministry correctly observes *'The present U.S. administration's attempt to modernize the missile defense system is also aimed to provide conditions for launching preemptive nuclear attack on the rivals without any worry about retaliatory attack by them and to turn outer space, a common wealth of the whole mankind, into a war theatre and militarize it and thus realize the U.S. military hegemony on a global scale'*.

The DPRK is not placing any illusions on the present US administration but instead will counter the ever increasing US threat by building its self - defensive capabilities.



(BGSJI, KFA UK, London 4th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement,
in support of the press statement titled:
'The most depraved country in the world,
is not entitled to take issue with other countries',
that made a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),
on Sunday 2nd of February***

The title of the press statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry is very apt for indeed the United States is indeed a most depraved state where there are random murders , kidnapping , homelessness , unemployment, poverty and corruption .

Recently, the new US secretary of state who is charged with the implementation of US foreign policy dared call the DPRK a '*rogue state*' ! This is the height of impudence and temerity ! As everyone knows the US is the biggest rogue state in the world. Even according to their own figures the US between 1991 and 2022 the US has carried out a whopping 251 military interventions ! How can the US call the DPRK a rogue state ? As the DPRK Foreign Ministry comments: '*...But it is necessary to mention how absurd and illogical it is that the most depraved state in the world brands another country a rogue state*'.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry correctly denounces and rejects the ill - famed remarks of Rubio which is an attempt to slander the DPRK and its socialist system and harm its reputation.

Basically, Rubio's remarks show the hostility of the US towards the DPRK continues and has not changed.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry rightly says '*We will never tolerate any provocation of the U.S., which has been always hostile to the DPRK and will be hostile to it in the future, too, but will take tough counteraction corresponding to it as usual*'.

We also denounce the vile and provocative remarks of Rubio and resolve to more strongly support the DPRK against the hostile policy of the United States !

**Defend People's Korea !
US Hands Off Korea !**

(BGSJI, KFA UK, London 11th of February Juche 114 [2025])

***The British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea,
the Korean Friendship Association of the UK,
issued the following joint statement on the occasion,
of the 77th anniversary of the foundation,
of the regular revolutionary armed forces,
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
the Korean People's Army on the 8th of February***

The great leader President Kim Il Sung took the momentous decision 77 years ago on the 8th of February 1948 to transform the guerrilla - based Korean People's Revolutionary Army into a regular and standing armed force the Korean People's Army.

For 77 years the KPA has stood guard over the socialist gains of People's Korea and defends the sovereignty of the DPRK. It is totally different to armies in imperialist and capitalist countries.

The KPA is the unique Juche - based and Songun - based revolutionary armed force of the Korean people. It is an army of the people, an army of the revolution and an army of the working class and the Workers' Party of Korea.

The great leader President Kim Il Sung, an ever - victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and gifted military strategist, put forward the line of building the army after the liberation of Korea and developed the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the Korean People's Army, modern regular armed forces, performing the undying feats in the history of the building of the revolutionary armed force. With the foundation of the KPA, the Korean people came to have their own independent defence force safeguarding their independence. Under the command of the great generals of Mt Paektu, President Kim Il Sung and generalissimo Kim Jong Il the KPA traversed the road of glory and victory. In the 1950s the KPA beat back the U.S. imperialists' invasion to swallow up the DPRK in its cradle and demonstrated the dignity and honour of the DPRK and Korean people during the Fatherland Liberation War. Throughout the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s the regular revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK defended the gains of socialism and the independence of the DPRK, inflicting defeats on the imperialists.

Our delegations have witnessed the incredible steel - like unity and total discipline of the Korean People's Army at the military parades of April 2012, July 2013, October 2015, April 2017 and September 2018.

Today the KPA under the command of dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un is the pride of Juche Korea defending the independence and security of the country and will achieve greater victories.

**LONG LIVE THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY!**

(BGSJI, KFA UK, London 2nd of February Juche 114 [2025])



DPRK NEWS

More Senior Middle School Graduates, in DPRK Volunteer for Military Service



At a time when all the people in the DPRK are inflamed with hostility against the U.S. imperialists and the ROK military gangsters hell - bent on the reckless large-scale joint military exercises Freedom Shield 2025 to stifle the DPRK at any cost, more than 1 200 graduates of senior middle schools in North Hwanghae Province have volunteered for military service at forefront border posts.

Graduates in Sariwon City and Kumchon and Thosan counties petitioned their youth league organizations to send them to forefront border posts.

Graduates of Hwangju Middle School for Orphans and graduate students in Songrim City and Phyongsan and Junghwa counties, too, vowed to stand at the posts for national defence.

Those in Sangwon, Koksan, Sohung, Pongsan and other counties are filled with the single mind to reliably defend their beloved motherland with arms and glorify every moment of their military service with feats.

At the petition meetings held in relevant cities and counties, war veterans handed over the national flags of the DPRK to the volunteers, requesting them to perform military feats in the struggle for defending the country.

All the participants were deeply moved to hear the volunteers' speeches reflecting their ardent patriotism and will to firmly defend the country and annihilate the enemies.

(Pyongyang, February 2nd, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea Premier, Inspects Various Sectors



Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the DPRK Cabinet, made a field survey of various sectors.

Going round 10 000 flats at the third - stage in the Hwasong area near their completion, the premier said it is necessary to perfect the construction of all structures, including connected service building which will be an icon structure of the third-stage project, without any slight defect on the highest quality level and make a thorough preparation for their inauguration and, in particular, officials of the construction supervisory institution should fulfill their responsibility and duty.

At the construction site for building 10 000 flats at the fourth-stage in the Hwasong area, he encouraged officials and builders to make another brilliant miracle and innovation in the fresh struggle for putting the capital city construction on a higher stage with redoubled self - confidence and exertion, deeply cherishing the significant speech made by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the groundbreaking ceremony for the fourth-stage project.

He called for thoroughly observing the overall schedule for the project at the stage of foundation work by scrupulously organizing and guiding the construction work, arranging manpower and supplying materials according to a well thought-out plan and further increasing the operation rate of construction equipment given the fact that the scale and volume of construction are expanded owing to additional objects. Visiting the Phyongsong Lighting Goods Factory under construction, the premier

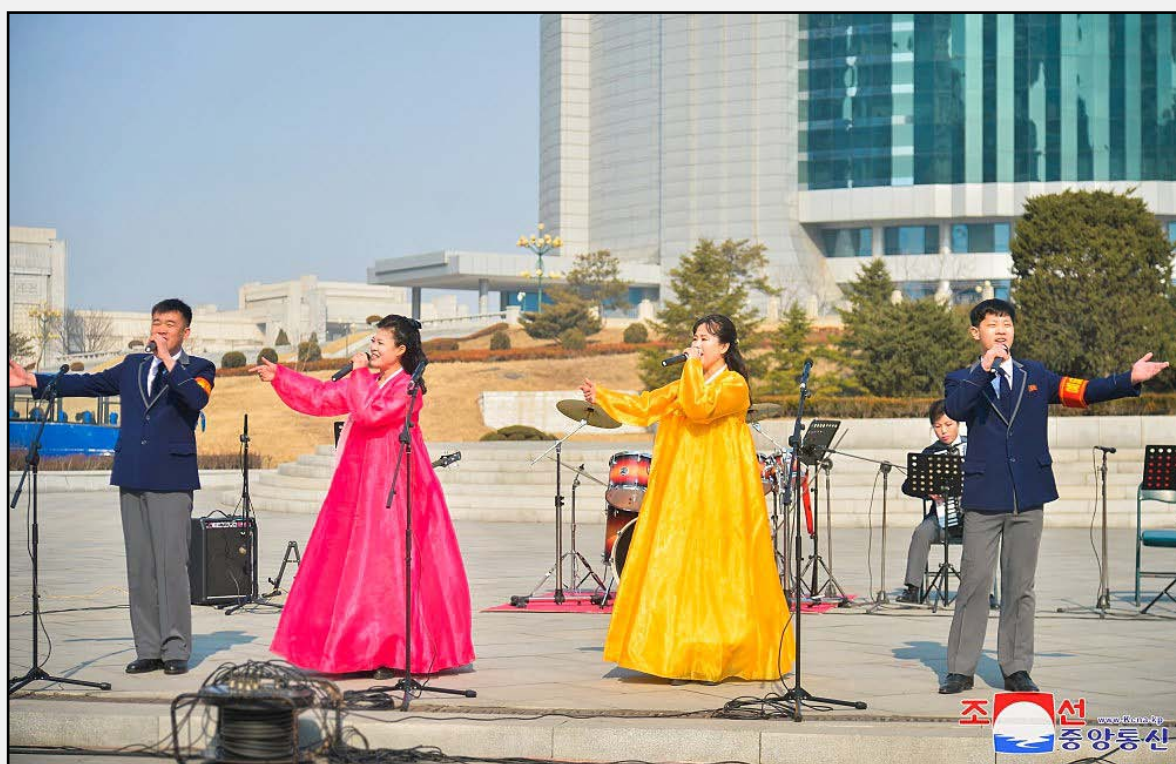
stressed the need to carry on the building work and the manufacture and installation of equipment and facilities with great efforts on the principle of thoroughly applying economic efficiency and advanced technology so that the factory will be able to perform its mission and role as a model necessities production base, and simultaneously push ahead in an effective way with the preparations for its operation including the training of skilled workers and the supply of raw materials.

Learning about the operation of the medium test sites of the Heat Engineering Institute and the Ferrous Metal Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, he called upon scientists and researchers to bring about a clear fruition in developing the core technology and ultra-modern technology of Korean style conducive to strengthening the independence of economy and intensify the work for identifying technical indices for industrialization so that the successes in technical development can be introduced into reality as soon as possible.

The field consultative meetings discussed an issue for realizing the landscaping of residential quarters in the Hwasong area and their surroundings on a high level and stepping up the land leveling, an issue for the relevant units to ensure the timely supply and transport of building materials, an issue for providing researchers with sufficient conditions necessary for their scientific research activities and an issue for directing the state efforts to the work for sprucing up the medium test sites.

(Pyongyang, March 11th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

International Women's Day, Marked in Democratic People's Republic of Korea



On the 115th March 8 International Women's Day, the whole of the DPRK is full of joy of the women honestly serving as flowers of amity and laughs of happiness at their houses and workplaces.

Many citizens visited the sacred temple of Juche with ardent yearning and reverence for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

A large number of people visited the statues of the President and the Chairman on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in other parts of the country and the mosaics of the peerlessly great men to pay floral tribute to them.

Officials of all provinces, cities and counties, institutions, industrial establishments and farms met and congratulated women scientists, teachers, innovators and other exemplary women workers on the March 8 International Women's Day.

Colorful congratulatory performances were given at theatres and outdoor stages in Pyongyang and local areas.

A concert was given by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Moranbong Theatre and a music and dance performance by the Mansudae Art Troupe at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre to mark the 115th International Women's Day.

A one - act play, 'laughter', was given at the National Theatre, and a circus show given by artistes of the National Acrobatic Troupe at the Pyongyang Circus Theater.

Artistes of the Central Artistic Information Team, the Workers' Art Group of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the art group of the Central Committee of the women's union and the Railway Artistic Information Team gave colorful performances in different parts of Pyongyang.

Similar performances, dancing parties and colorful sports and amusement games took place in North Phyongan, South Hwanghae, Jagang and South Hamgyong provinces, Nampho and Kaesong municipalities and other parts of the country.

Public catering establishments across the country gave special holiday service.

Many people bought bouquets, flowers, greeting cards, souvenirs and other things for their wives and mothers at the souvenir and flower shops and flower stands.

(Pyongyang, March 9th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

***Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un,
Inspects Major Shipyards to Learn about Warship - building,
and Advance Strategic Policy,
for Epochal Development in Shipbuilding Industry***



At a time when the important goals for realizing the grandiose plan of the Workers' Party of Korea on building an advanced maritime power are being pushed ahead with under the schedule set by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, there took place the guidance work of the Party Central Committee, which is of a remarkable significance in defending the maritime sovereignty of the DPRK and in developing its shipbuilding industry.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, toured major shipyards to give field guidance at their shipbuilding.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted by leading officials of those shipyards.

Accompanying him were Jo Chun Ryong, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Admiral Kim Myong Sik, commander of the Navy of the Korean People's Army, and major leading officials of the WPK Central Committee.

He acquainted himself with the ongoing work for attaining the goal of building warships set forth by the Party Congress and the technical equipment level and modernization of shipyards.

He expressed great satisfaction over the high spirit and labor feats of the workers

who are registering signal successes in the implementation of the militant task for radically improving the modernity of our navy in the shortest span of time in line with the primary requirement for the state security and the world trend of naval force development.

He was reported on the progress made in attaining with confidence the goals for putting the shipbuilding industry on a Juche, modern and scientific basis, set forth by the Party Central Committee, by pushing ahead with the work for technical updating and enhancement of the production capacity to ensure the rapid development of our naval force.

He gave a high appreciation of the fact that a firm prospect has been opened for introducing into the operation the strongest warships capable of establishing the core of the Juche naval force and meeting all the requirements of the national defence strategy in the shortest possible time, true to the strategic line of our Party on building the national defence.

He said that the maritime sovereignty is the core of the sovereign rights of our country, whose both eastern and western sides are washed by seas, and the development of the naval force into an elite and nuclear - armed force constitutes an important content in the strategy for the development of the national defence which intensively reflects our Party's will to defend the sovereignty at present.

Only when there is a powerful naval force that no one can provoke, is it possible to defend the security of the country and the people and ensure normal development of the fishing industry and the overall national economy, he said, adding that the sea is an inviolable territory where the dignity and prestige of our state and the people's life are ensured, before it is an indefinite site for prosperity.

Saying that the eternal history of our socialist Korea depends on how we defend the sea, a major front decisive of the life and death of the state and people and a main route of aggression by the enemy countries, he stressed the need to make the incomparably overwhelming warships fulfill their mission as powerful deterrent of a nuclear power capable of containing the inveterate '*gunboat diplomacy*' of the hostile forces.

It is really significant progress that the rejuvenation of the DPRK's ideal warship - building industry has entered the full - scale stage of laying a sure foundation and kindling the flame of modernization while enduring hardships, he said, stressing the need to decisively enhance the warship - building capacity on the basis of the existing precious experience and technology and put spurs to the improvement of overall technical processes, and thus build a large number of modern warships of different missions desired by our naval force.

The key to radically strengthening the warship - building industry, which can be called an aggregate of ultra - modern defence science and technology, is the science and technology and training of talents, he said, calling for regarding them as the

two elements for development and leap forward so as to vigorously lead the rejuvenation of warship - building industry, whose new appearance will be recorded in the history of the DPRK.

He said that the modernization of the shipyards, which should play an important role in the revolution in the new era for bolstering up the naval force, should not be conducted in the passive method of bridging the gaps in the processes of the existing foundation, but in the way of boldly and perfectly creating new and high-tech bases suited to the prestige and status of a powerful nation. And he clarified the strategic plan of the WPK for doing so.

He said that the DPRK would never remain an idle onlooker to the naval and underwater military activities of the enemies seriously threatening the sovereignty and interests of the DPRK by constantly deploying large numbers of strategic assets but reliably defend the maritime sovereignty and firmly ensure a security guarantee on the Korean peninsula and the region through the important innovations and changes of its naval force and the upper hand in the ever - evolving strength.

Noting that the justness to put the DPRK naval force's war posture and capability to fight a war on the most powerful and perfect level is increasing the DPRK's will and desire for the rejuvenation of the warship - building industry, he affirmed that the sea defence capability of the DPRK, which is in a responsible and key position for defending peace in the Korean peninsula and the region, will be fully displayed in any necessary waters without limitation.

He expressed expectation and belief that all the officials and workers in the warship - building industry would further consolidate the arsenal for defending the maritime sovereignty with a courageous struggle, well aware of their sacred honor and important mission as revolutionary industrial soldiers of the WPK who is responsible for the fatal state affair holding sway over the future of the DPRK's navy and the territorial integrity and peace keeping of the country.

The basic orientation for radically bolstering up the navy's combat power valued by the Party is to simultaneously push forward with the modernization of water - surface and underwater warships and the further improvement of their operational capabilities, he said, and advanced the long - term essential plan for the possession of the warships and its stepwise goals to substantially guarantee the mission of the DPRK's armed forces to defend the maritime sovereignty and the future direction of the defence economic work and all the tasks for doing so.

He also learned about the building of a nuclear - powered strategic guided missile submarine pushed forward with under the decision of the 8th Congress of the WPK. His field guidance at the major shipyards is a significant event heralding a new phase of bolstering up the Juche - based naval force.

(Pyongyang, March 8th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

***Press Statement of Kim Yo Jong,
Vice Department Director of Central Committee,
of the Workers' Party of Korea***



Kim Yo Jong, vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, issued the following press statement: *'Constant deployment of U.S. strategic assets highlights urgency of the DPRK to bolster up its self - defensive nuclear war deterrent'* on Monday:

The U.S. is frequently committing provocative acts of aggravating the situation in disregard of the security concern of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.S. Navy nuclear carrier Carl Vinson strike group entered the Pusan operation base in the ROK again on March 2 under the pretext of *'demonstrating the ROK - U.S. alliance and increasing inter - operability'*.

The Carl Vinson strike group took part in the war drills together with Japan and the ROK in the waters around the Korean peninsula in January last year. It is reported that the strike group consists of cruiser Princeton, Aegis destroyer Sterett and others.

Entering this year, the deployment of the U.S. nuclear strategic means on the Korean peninsula is the second one in the wake of the nuclear submarine Alexandria, and the U.S. Navy carrier appeared eight months after the Theodore Roosevelt in June last year.

If the actions of strategic bombers are put together, the U.S. is hurling strategic

assets into the Korean peninsula at the constant deployment level.

In fact, the U.S. spent the whole of 2024 with the largest anti - DPRK war exercises ever in history. As soon as its new administration appeared this year, the U.S. has stepped up the political and military provocations against the DPRK, *'carrying forward'* the former administration's hostile policy.

It is necessary to read a diary of the confrontation hysteria of the U.S. and its stooges one by one.

On January 10, just before the retirement of the former administration, the U.S. held the 4th U.S. - ROK *'nuclear consultative group'* meeting in Washington to discuss a nuclear war drill on the Korean peninsula and an increase in the visibility of deploying U.S. strategic assets. And it deployed B - 1B strategic bombers in the sky near the Korean peninsula on Jan. 15 to conduct a U.S. - Japan - ROK joint air drill, as part of the clear action practice.

Timed to coincide with this, the U.S., together with the ROK army, staged a large joint firing drill aimed at the long - range artillery fire system of the DPRK on Jan. 14 - 16, and a Ssangmae joint air drill on Jan. 21 - 24 under the pretext of increasing the capability for cooperation in air operations.

The U.S. held a confab with the diplomatic authorities of Japan and the ROK on Feb. 15, with the international security conference held in Munich of Germany as an occasion, and cooked up and made public a *'joint statement'* with *'strengthened offer of U.S. nuclear umbrella through U.S. - ROK and U.S. - Japan alliances'* as the main point, viciously pulling up the DPRK over its sovereign rights.

A few days later, it let its B - 1B strategic bomber fly over the sky of the Korean peninsula again on February 20 to stage a joint air drill together with the Air Force of the ROK.

The U.S. vicious moves for confrontation with the DPRK have been intensified in March with the appearance of Carl Vinson in the Korean peninsula. Such moves will reach the climax with the U.S.-Japan-ROK naval drill and the Freedom Shield joint military exercises, to be staged this month with Carl Vinson involved, as a momentum.

ROK media claim that the entry of Carl Vinson is aimed *'to substantially implement the U.S. government's reaffirmed commitment to permanent and iron - like extended deterrence'* and to *'display the strong joint defence posture of the ROK - U.S. alliance to cope with threat'* from someone.

With such practical action measures, the U.S. has clearly shown its most hostile and confrontational will to the DPRK.

The root cause of escalating tension on the Korean peninsula clearly lies in the

U.S. and its allies which are further intensifying military moves to implant NATO infrastructure in the region and improve the level of war preparations.

The DPRK bitterly condemns the reckless visible actions and muscle - flexing of the U.S. and its vassal forces disregarding and violating a sovereign state's security concern and jeopardizing the peaceful environment in the whole region.

As indicated by the regional military situation, the U.S. and its stooges' heinous ambition to threaten, pressurize and bring the DPRK to its knees by force of arms is developing into a more reckless phase with the passage of time.

As for the DPRK's nuclear policy formulated as a main law of the DPRK, it was adopted in correct reflection of the concern for state's security by the present and future threats. And the present reality further highlights the justness, validity and necessity of the DPRK's line on bolstering up its nuclear forces.

The action - accompanied hostile policy toward the DPRK pursued by the U.S. at present is offering sufficient justification for the DPRK to indefinitely bolster up its nuclear war deterrent.

We will never confine ourselves to sitting still and commenting on the situation.

If the U.S. continues to renew its records in the anti-DPRK military demonstration, the DPRK will be naturally compelled to renew its records in the exercise of strategic deterrence.

The DPRK is also planning to carefully examine the option for increasing the actions threatening the security of the enemy at the strategic level to cope with the fact that the deployment of U.S. strategic assets in the Korean peninsula has become a vicious habit and adversely affects the security of the DPRK.

The enemies should not test the will and ability of the DPRK to defend the sovereignty and security interests of the state by mobilizing all means in hand. It's a very dangerous thing.



(Pyongyang, March 4th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Secretary of Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, Meets President of United Russia Party



Ri Hi Yong, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Central Inspection Commission of the WPK, on a visit to Russia as head of the WPK delegation, met with Dmitri Anatoliyevich Medvedev, president of the United Russia Party, on February 26.

Ri Hi Yong courteously conveyed the warm greetings of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, to Dmitri Anatoliyevich Medvedev, president of the United Russia Party.

Expressing his heartfelt thanks for it, Medvedev asked Ri Hi Yong to convey his sincere wishes that Comrade Kim Jong Un would achieve bigger success in his important work to lead the Party and the state.

Saying that he warmly welcomes the visit of a high - ranking delegation of the WPK to Moscow, he added that the revitalization of the relations between the ruling parties of the two countries would further enrich the bilateral relations between Russia and the DPRK developing wonderfully.

He noted that a new era was opened in the development of Russia-DPRK relations thanks to the positive role of the leaders of the two countries and that the treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership concluded last year was the one fully confirming with the international law and considering the changing reality.

Expressing thanks for the DPRK's support to the Russian Federation, he stressed that all measures taken by the DPRK to defend its sovereignty and security are legitimate and just.

He expressed his will to steadily boost the close cooperation between the United Russia Party and the Workers' Party of Korea and open a new chapter in the development of the bilateral relations by further expanding the many-sided exchange and contact with the current visit as a momentum.

Present on the occasion were Kim Song Nam, director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee, Sin Hong Chol, DPRK ambassador to Russia, Vladimir Vladimirovich Yakushev, secretary of the General Council of the United Russia Party and first vice - chairman of the Russian Federation Council, Andrei Klimov, member of the Bureau of the Supreme Council of the United Russia Party and vice - chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Federation Council, and others.

(Pyongyang, February 28th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Many Graduate Students in Pyongyang Volunteer, for Military Service



More than 300 graduate students of senior middle schools in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, have volunteered for military service at forefront border posts, out of the ardent desire to devote their youth and hope to upholding the socialist cause with arms, amid the patriotic will of the rising generation growing stronger to add eternal luster to our ideology, system and beloved country.

A meeting took place at the Pyongyang Municipal Youth Park Open-Air Theatre on Wednesday to congratulate them who are leaving for the forefront of defending the country, regarding the national defence as the most vivid expression of patriotism, the most sacred duty and the first mission.

A congratulatory address was made at the meeting.

The speaker warmly congratulated the graduate students who vowed to serve at the military posts for national defence with the will to record the immortal military feats on their personal accounts before anything else, though there are many places to go from the campus associated with the unforgettable memories of their school days and many workplaces to translate their dreams and ideals into reality.

It is the highest honor and pride of the young people in the present era to glorify their youth in the military uniform of the revolution, the speaker said, requesting the volunteers to adorn every moment of their military service with loyalty and patriotic feats.

Then there were speeches of volunteers.

They expressed their determination to reliably defend peace and security on this land from the enemies' aggression and challenge at the forefront of national defence, saying that it is the proud tradition of the Korean youth to take arms of defenders for the very precious motherland.

DPRK Hero Ho Ryong, a lecturer of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, handed over the national flag of the DPRK shining as the symbol of heroism and victory of Juche Korea to the reliable volunteers.

The volunteers and participants in the meeting broke out shouts of ardent determination to fully display the stamina and mettle of the Korean youth by carrying forward the spirit of the victorious wartime generation, with ardent patriotism and love for the country and the people and the will to annihilate the enemy.

The proud stride of the volunteers in the capital city toward the outposts is a manifestation of the noble mental world of the rising generation determined to share the destiny with the country to the last after realizing how precious the country is under the care of the Party.



(Pyongyang, February 27th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Groundbreaking Ceremonies of Regional - industry Factories, Hospital and Leisure Complex, Held in Democratic People's Republic of Korea



The grand construction struggle in 2025 to implement the regional development policy in the new era is going on in a three - dimensional and full - scale way in the DPRK.

There took place on Monday the groundbreaking ceremonies of regional - industry factories in Sinyang and Koksan counties, a hospital in Kusong City and regional - industry factories and a leisure complex in Jongphyong County for the Regional Development 20 × 10 Policy.

Present there were Kim Tok Hun, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, chief secretaries of the provincial committees of the WPK, officials and working people in relevant provinces, city and counties, service personnel and builders.

At the ceremonies, speakers said that the stirring reality, in which the unprecedented gigantic revolution is being made one after another to transform the regional areas, is an eye - opening change that can be made only by the steadfast outlook on the revolution and the people of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un who never feels contented with the work for the people.

They referred to the fact that the General Secretary set forth the iron rule that the factories to be built for the promotion of people's well - being should be Korean-style ones fully suited to the regional conditions and convenience of the inhabitants, and clearly indicated the orientation and ways for raising the next - stage regional construction onto a higher level in line with the simultaneous construction of new factories in 20 cities and counties and has energetically led the work to do so.

They said that the new factories, which are to be built in a modern way in harmony with surrounding environment to make effective development and use of regional economic resources, are precious assets greatly conducive to promoting the improvement of the living standards of the people in the city and counties and sprucing up their appearance as regional bases of the highly - civilized, prosperous and powerful country.

They said that the construction of multifunctional bases for cultural activities and modern public health facilities under the noble plan of the General Secretary is the work essential for the comprehensive and sustained development of regions.

The speakers stressed that the new change to be certainly made in 20 cities and counties this year, too, would more powerfully prove the validity of the revolutionary cause of the WPK ushering in a new great era of regional transformation and the rosy future of socialism.

Then, officials and commanding officers of the construction units made speeches of pledge.

With the high confidence to bring about another epochal change in the new era, the builders started the projects in high spirits, operating construction equipment at full capacity.

(Pyongyang, February 25th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Women in Chongjin City Advance, into Major Theatres of Socialist Construction



More than 100 women in Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province in the DPRK volunteered to work at honorable posts with the desire to glorify their true life as women workers in the revolutionary advance for the comprehensive development of socialism.

Members of the women's union in Ranam, Sinam and Phohang districts vowed to work at the Ranam Coal-Mining Machine Factory, Chongjin Footwear Factory, etc.

Women's union members in the city including Sunam and Songphuyong districts advanced into the Chongjin School uniform Factory and raw material bases of the regional - industry factories and women in Chongam District into the countryside.

A meeting to congratulate them took place at the Chongjin City Hall of Culture on Tuesday. Present there were Choe Yong Ho, secretary of the provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials and members of the women's union.

At the meeting, a speaker called upon all the volunteers to become innovators loved by the masses at every worksite seething with the drive for increased production and economy.

Volunteers in the speeches expressed their determination to glorify the honor of the socialist workers and contribute to the comprehensive rejuvenation and development of the country. Their speeches met the response of the participants.

Officials and women's union members saw off the volunteers leaving for new posts.

(Pyongyang, February 19th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Senior Party and Government Officials, Visit Kumsusan Palace of Sun



Senior Party and government officials of the DPRK visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on Sunday, the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

They included Pak Thae Song, Jo Yong Won and Choe Ryong Hae, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior Party and government officials, officials of the Party Central Committee, leading officials of ministries and national agencies and officials of armed forces organs.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, eternal leaders of our Party and people, lie in state, was wrapped in a solemn atmosphere.

Floral baskets in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK were laid before the statues of the great leaders.

The visitors paid high tribute to the statues of the great leaders.

At the halls where Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il lie in state, the participants paid homage to them in humblest reverence.

All of them renewed their firm pledge to glorify forever the new period of comprehensive development of the state by fulfilling their important duties, entrusted by the Party and the people, in the first and forefront line of honorable struggle for the accomplishment of the grand revolutionary programme set forth by the Eighth Congress of the WPK, true to the ideas and leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.



(Pyongyang, February 17th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)



***Korean Central News Agency Commentary
on ROK's Reckless Military Maneuvers***

The military provocations being committed in a frantic way in the ROK from the first month of the new year serve as an occasion of highlighting once again what enemy it is facing and how dangerous it may pay dearly for a moment's carelessness.

On January 3, when all countries of the world were still in the festive mood of the New Year, the puppet navy of the ROK simultaneously staged war drills with destroyers, escort ships and other warships and military planes involved in all waters of the East, West and South Seas.

Then, infantry, artillery and engineer units simultaneously staged various kinds of war drills and the armored brigades joined them to rattle the whole land of the ROK.

Amid the joint large - scale firing drills of the U.S. and the ROK to neutralize the long-range artillery force of the DPRK, the U.S. - Japan - ROK joint air drill was conducted in the sky over the Korean peninsula with the U.S. strategic bomber B - 1B involved on January 15th and, on the same day, the U.S. and ROK air forces staged the air live - shell firing drill.

Then, the U.S. and ROK air forces staged the first Ssangmae joint air drill for several days this year, and a joint special war drill aimed at a sudden attack on the DPRK was conducted.

The U.S. air force in the ROK ended the month of January with the training for preemptive attack on the DPRK by making sorties of fighters despite heavy snowfall.

The war drills targeting the DPRK were staged almost every day till the last day of the first month of the new year. This predicts that the U.S. and the ROK would commit desperately their unprecedented military maneuvers against the DPRK this year, too.

What should not be overlooked is that such war games are being staged in the lawless land where the political situation is confused and everything is in a mess due to such fierce scramble for power as a cockfight at coop

Everyone will guess easily how the DPRK will accept the fact that the 'nuclear consultative group' of the U.S. and the ROK puppets is still being held to stifle the

DPRK with nukes and the war drills against it staged more intensively than ever before though diplomatic schedules were cancelled one after another due to the political chaos in the ROK.

The U.S. and the ROK's irresponsible acts of escalating the regional tension that started from the outset of the year are still going on.

Hostile and adventurous acts will only entail undesirable consequences.

(Pyongyang, February 9th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)

Korean Central News Agency Commentary Sneers, at Puppet ROK and Its Master

The confrontation hysteria against the DPRK is getting ever more pronounced in the puppet ROK amid the worsening political chaos.

In January alone, riff - raffs acting for the arrested former bosses were busy visiting units of the puppet army to let loose such reckless remarks as '*punishment by overwhelming force*' and '*heavy price*' that put even the predecessors into the shade. The puppet defence ministry announced a '*business plan for 2025*' with clear - cut anti - DPRK confrontational nature, in which it decided to increase the number of field mobile maneuvers at brigade and above level by far more than last year, hitting an all - time high, in the period of Freedom Shield, a joint military drill with the U.S. to be staged this year.

What is more serious is the moves for arms buildup in parallel with the confrontational reckless remarks.

The puppet ROK is planning to purchase helicopters for naval operations from the U.S. in a bid to enhance the attack capability against submarine and others of the DPRK, while accelerating the introduction of attack and reconnaissance drones for special operation.

Some days ago, it cooked up a '*naval task force command*', loudly advertising it as the '*core force of national defence*' to cope with '*nuclear and missile threats*' from the DPRK. And it even cried out for '*winning a war*', improper to the position of a colonial servant.

What matters is that though the incumbent president has turned into a defendant and a political confusion by the scramble for power and the dog - fight for existence has appeared in the puppet ROK, the puppet military is persistently resorting to the confrontation moves aimed at the DPRK.

It is as clear as noonday that the U.S. played its role to inspire the puppet military.

With the great political confusion in the puppet ROK by Yoon Suk Yeol's announcement of the emergency martial law, the U.S. authorities vied with each other to remark that mutual military cooperation is still strongly maintained and it will last beyond the present government and that the ROK is an important partner of the U.S. in the India - Pacific region.

Shortly ago, the U.S. secretary of Defence phoned a person acting as the puppet defence minister to incite the confrontation with the DPRK, talking about the '*strong joint defence posture*' to effectively '*deter*' and '*counter*' the '*nuclear and missile threats*' from the DPRK.

It is the demand of the master U.S. that the puppet ROK should continue to '*faithfully play the role*' of a shock brigade in carrying out the former's strategy for hegemony, whether the latter falls into chaos or not. And it is the plight of the puppet forces, the servants of the U.S., that they have to meet the demand of their master even if their family collapses.

The DPRK can never overlook the reckless nature of the enemies, though it is little short of the acts of the foolish servant with the dull - witted master.

The desperate confrontation moves of the immutable arch enemies show in practice that entirely just is the DPRK's steadfast stand which is to thoroughly contain and frustrate their moves on the strength of powerful military muscle by bolstering up its defence capabilities more radically.

The U.S. should directly look at its rival and the change of the world and stop such foolish act as burning itself to the fire it has set.

(Pyongyang, March 11th, Juche 114
Korean Central News Agency)



LIFE AND CULTURE in PEOPLES KOREA

Day of Shining Star in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Every year the Korean people meaningfully celebrate February 16, the birthday of Kim Jong Il (1942 - 2011), eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the Day of the Shining Star.

The Day of the Shining Star was designated in 2012, the year of the 70th anniversary of his birth. Kwangmyongsong (Shining Star) is Kim Jong Il's childhood

nickname.

During the period of the armed struggle to liberate the country from the Japanese military occupation (1905-1945), Kim Jong Il was born in the Paektusan Sacred Camp, a base of the armed struggle, on February 16, 1942. At that time the anti-Japanese guerillas stripped some trees of the bark in the forests and wrote on them such slogans as:

Heir to General Kim Il Sung was born on Mt Paektu;
O Korea and compatriots,
we inform you of the birth of the Shining Star of Paektu;
and Bright is the future of Korea lit by the Shining Star of Paektu,
a great blessing for Korea to be liberated.

All the slogans were associated with their expectation and desire that Kim Jong Il would add glory to Korea in future by carrying forward the cause of President Kim Il Sung (1912 - 1994), the saviour and great sun of the Korean nation. True to their expectation and desire, Kim Jong Il grew up as the shining star.

From his early days, he had a great ambition to add glory to Korea so that it would become a prosperous people's country. With such an ambition, he performed exploits noteworthy in history while overseeing the overall affairs of the Workers' Party of Korea, the state and the army true to the intention of President Kim Il Sung.

His distinguished leadership ability was displayed to the full in the arduous days when the country was undergoing grim trials in the end of the previous century.

At that time the difficulties and trials facing the Korean people were beyond description - demise of President Kim Il Sung, collapse of socialism in the Eastern European countries, intensive isolate-and-stifle schemes by the US and its vassal forces aimed at exterminating socialism, natural calamities that hit the country for several consecutive years and the subsequent difficulties in the economy and severe shortage of food.

At this juncture, Kim Jong Il braved all the difficulties under the uplifted banner of Songun.

He strengthened the national defence capabilities to the maximum by inspecting the units of the Korean People's Army one after another, and firmly consolidated the foundations of the independent national economy by visiting various sectors.

In those days, the military and technical might of the KPA was strengthened remarkably, and it possessed a powerful war deterrent, smashing the schemes of the hostile forces to stifle the DPRK to pieces. Under his wise leadership, the DPRK overcame the trials in the economy and provided a springboard for building a thriving socialist country; the traditional single - hearted

unity of the Korean people was raised to a higher level.

Entering the new century, he vigorously carried out external activities, visiting Russia and China several times. This dealt a serious blow to the arbitrary and willful attitude of the imperialist forces, showing important opportunities to direct the world political trend to the path of independence.

Under his Songun - based leadership, the DPRK won one victory after another in the prolonged confrontation with the hostile forces, and many countries that were hostile to the DPRK established diplomatic relations with the country one after another.

Kim Jong - il's outstanding feat is that he led his country not only to the status of a nuclear state but also to the creation and launching of satellites.

His career and feats will forever shine in the hearts of the Korean people and the world's progressive nations along with the Day of the Shining Star.



**Trees bearing the slogans written by the anti - Japanese guerrillas
in praise of Kim Jong Il as the Shining Star.**

(Korean Publication Exchange Association)

Bell of Yonbok Temple, World Cultural Heritage

There is a big bell at Namdae Gate in Kaesong City of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The bell was cast in 1346 in the period of Koryo (one of the feudal states in Korea that had existed between 918 and 1392) and hung at the Yonbok Temple in Kaesong, the then capital of Koryo. It was moved to Namdae Gate after the temple was burnt down in 1563.

With its mouth 1.9m in diameter, the bell is 3.12m high and 0.23m thick and weighs about 14 tons.

It differs from other bells in the period of Koryo in shape, pattern and distribution.

A few thick lines around the waist of the body divide the bell into the upper and lower parts. Engraved on the upper part are Buddhist images and scriptures, patterns and the name of the bell. The rhythmically wavy frame of the lower part is graced by embossed designs of fish, dragon and other animals.

The dragons decorating the ring of the bell are so vivid that they seem to be brought to life.

The surface ornaments are exquisite, elegant and imposing. It is said that the tolling was clear enough to be heard as far as over 40km.

The bell, cast in copper alloy, showcases the metal workmanship of the Korean ancestors.

As one of typical cultural heritage items of the Korean people, the bell was added to the list of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 2013, together with other historical and cultural relics in Kaesong





**Bell of Yonbok Temple in the DPRK's Kaesong City,
is on the world cultural heritage list.**

(Korean Publication Exchange Association)

Active Development and Use of Hydraulic Resources



Korea is very rich in hydraulic resources as she is seabound on three sides and has big and small rivers everywhere.

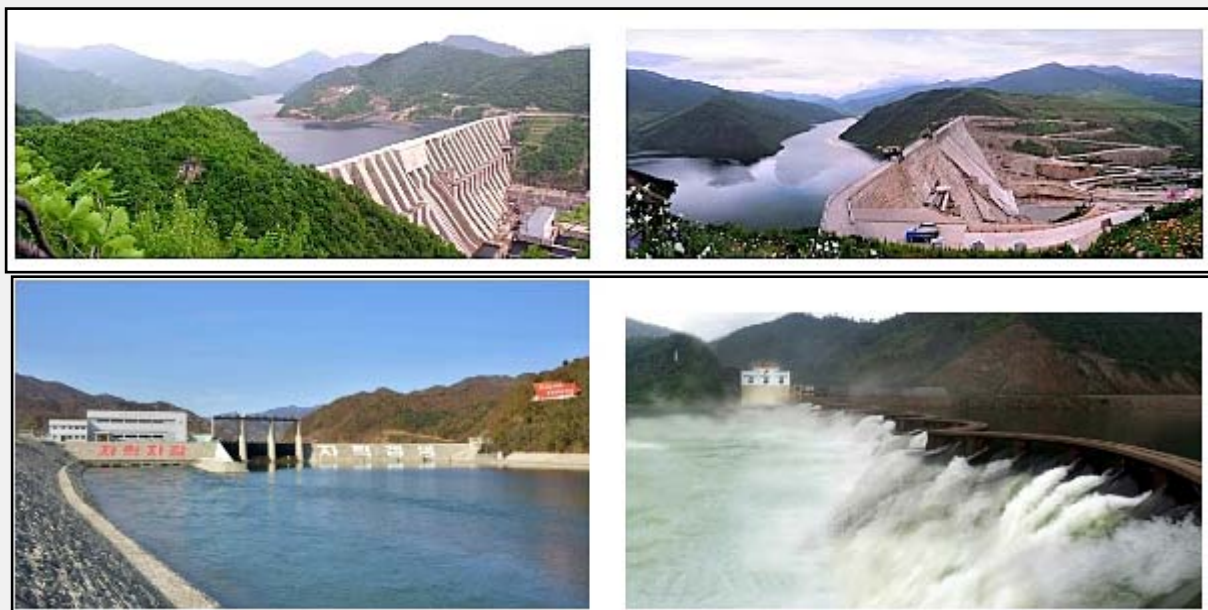
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has long put great efforts into the construction of hydropower stations to ease the strain on power and speed up the electrification of the country.

It is pushing ahead with the construction of both large-scale and medium- and small - size hydropower stations at the same time.

The power stations with the generating capacity of more than 10,000 kilowatts are defined as large - scale ones, those with the capacity between 1,000 and 10,000 kilowatts as medium - size ones and those with the capacity between 100 and 1,000 kilowatts as small - size ones.

In recent years, a nationwide campaign has been conducted to tap and use all the hydraulic resources of the country.

Large - scale hydropower stations such as the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station and the Orangchon Power Station were inaugurated to make a decisive progress in solving the power problem of the country and meet the increasing demand of the national economy for electricity.



Now the construction of the Tanchon Power Station is in progress, which is the largest one in the history of construction of hydropower stations of the country.

Along with the construction of large - scale hydropower stations, medium- and small - size power stations are built in the provinces, cities and counties in a peculiar way. Medium- and small - size power stations with high economic effectiveness including Unit 2 of the Kumyagang Power Station in South Hamgyong Province are under construction everywhere with flowing water. It is the most rational and profitable way to easily solve the problem of electricity needed for the units at an early date with locally available materials and manpower.

More than 90 percent of Kangwon Province is mountains and it has nearly 200 rivers with the length of 20 kilometers. It is building hydropower stations in a bold way by using the inexhaustible hydraulic resources.

After building the large - scale Wonsan Army - People Power Station in 2016, the province planned to build over 20 power stations and now it pushes ahead with the construction of several of them at the same time.

The hydropower stations built across the country serve as an eternal wealth and a firm foundation for the development of the self - supporting economy.

(Paektu Solidarity Alliance)

Grasswork Products of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Grasswork is part of the cultural heritage of the Korean nation.

Grasswork products made of stems, bark, leaves and other parts of plants preserve both natural and classical beauty, and they are environmentally friendly. Now their value is positively reassessed.

Today the demand for grasswork products is on the increase in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which abounds with grass plants. Grasswork products help the locals make their lives more civilized and enriched.



Some of grasswork products made in the DPRK



Employees work at a daily necessities factory in Kimhwa County.

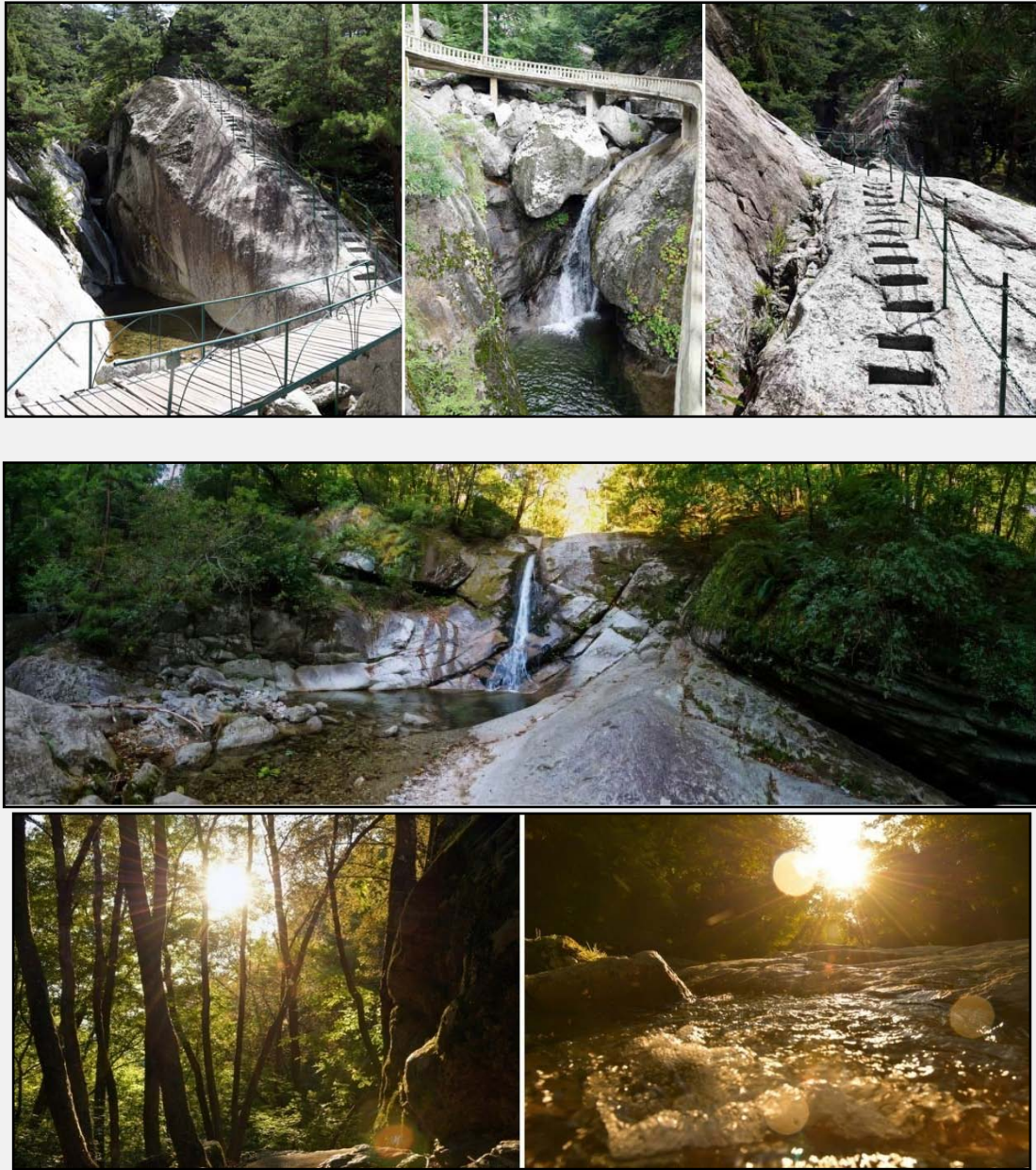
(Korean Publication Exchange Association)

Pleasure in a Celebrated Mountain

Mt. Myohyang is one of the celebrated mountains of Korea with combination of queerness and magnificence. It is called Myohyang meaning a singular and beautiful mountain emitting fragrance.



Mt. Myohyang presents exquisite scenery everywhere with magnificent peaks, queer rocks, deep valleys, sheer cliffs, diverse flora and fauna showing a beautiful landscape in all seasons, crystal - clear water and many falls in good harmony with gurgle of streams.



It has many cultural heritages representing the long history and culture, outstanding wisdom and creative talents of the Korean ancestors, and a history museum.

There are wonderful facilities for tourists and campers including hotel, camp, mineral spring resort and pavilion for relaxation in the mountain.

In Mt. Myohyang there is also the International Friendship Exhibition House, the treasure house in praise of great persons.

Lots of people visit the mountain every year and every season.







(Voice of Korea / Korean Publication Exchange Association)



CLASSIC WORKS
OF THE GREAT KOREAN LEADERS



KIM IL SUNG

'With The Century'

'The Years of Trials'

(February 1933 - February 1934)

Chapter 8 - 'Under the Banner of the Anti - Japanese Struggle'

part 51

' Ri Kwang '

I made friends with Ri Kwang in Jilin.

One day Kim Jun and his company from the General Federation of Korean Youth in East Manchuria brought a young man to me and introduced him. He was Ri Kwang.

Our comrades had assumed from his appearance in Jilin that he had come either to study, to get in touch with an organization, or to learn how the student and youth movement was progressing. Kim Jun hinted to me that Ri Kwang seemed to have come to Jilin to attend a secret provincial meeting of teachers.

My first impression of Ri Kwang was that he appeared intelligent and magnanimous, but reticent. In the course of repeated contacts thereafter I learned that he was indeed a young man of exceptional sensitivity, with a kind heart and the ability to form strong friendships.

My comrades were charmed when they met Ri Kwang, and they tried to persuade him to settle in Jilin, even suggesting to him that the Wenguang Middle School would be good for developing his knowledge, that the Law College would give him an ideal start in life, and that the Yuwen Middle School would be best for a man who wished to become a revolutionary.

Ri Kwang himself did not wish to leave Jilin. He said that, in his primary school days at Guchengzi, Yanji County, he had visited Jilin several times on errands for leaders of the Independence Army, that the life of the young people and students had now changed beyond recognition, and that the city was now buzzing with the social campaigns organized by students, whereas in previous years the young people had been so lethargic that their campaign had gone almost unnoticed. So Ri Kwang stayed and attended Middle School No. 5 in Jilin for some time.

In his early days Ri Kwang had been influenced mostly by the Korean Independence Army leaders, such as Hong Pom Do, Kim Jwa Jin, Hwang Pyong Gil and Choe Myong Rok. The headquarters of an Independence Army unit had been billeted on his wife's parents' house at Guchengzi for a long time, so he had met many leaders of the nationalist movement. Ri Kwang was sharp - eyed, quick - witted and modest and he attracted the attention of the Independence Army leaders. They seemed to have tried to make him heir to the cause of the Independence Army, just as O Tong Jin and Ri Ung had tried to make me their successor.

During his boyhood Ri Kwang had learned Chinese characters at the village school which was run by his mother's father. As his father's health was poor, he had given up the idea of going to secondary school, and at the age of 14, he began to help his father support the family. At the tender age of 16 he began to manage the household affairs as effective head of the family, and his modern schooling was therefore delayed. After graduating from school he taught at primary schools in Yanji and Wangqing for some time.

Until that time he had been known by his real name Ri Myong Chun. But from the

time he started teaching at Beihamatang in Chunhua Sub - county he was known by the nickname Ri Kwang. In those days eight schools at Beihamatang and its neighbourhood used to hold joint debating contests and athletic meets as part of the enlightenment movement, and Ri Kwang who was working underground, used to compete for the football team of Hamatang, using his nickname. From that time onwards everybody called him Ri Kwang.

“It was the Independence Army that guided me to nationalism and it was the independence movement that led me to communism,” he said to me when we first met, recollecting the days in Guchengzi.

His words sounded very strange to me.

“How could that be, did the old men of the Independence Army teach you two thoughts at a time?”

“No, I wasn’t exactly taught. How can I explain? I should really say that they influenced me, and there were both nationalist and Marxist - influences.”

“The old men must have been double - dealers?”

“I would say they were seeking a shift of direction, rather than double - dealing. While leading the Independence Army movement, they read communist books in secret. When I visited the house of my wife’s parents, I saw in a corner of a room lots of the books the old men were reading. So I began to read them, too, to kill time – but now I simply enjoy reading them.”

I squeezed Ri Kwang’s hand, and said. “I am glad to meet a man who espouses communism.”

Ri Kwang waved his hand in a hasty gesture, saying:

“No. I am not yet a communist. There are quite a few concepts I cannot understand among the communist principles advanced by Marx and Lenin. To my simple eyes, the communist ideal appears somehow too fantastic. You may feel sorry to hear this, Comrade Song Ju, but I hope you will understand that I am speaking frankly.”

I liked his candidness during our first conversation. It was this, more than anything else, which attracted me to him.

At the time Ri Kwang was neither a nationalist nor a communist. In short, he was in the process of changing his direction. In the course of his association with us in Jilin he became a communist, but he did not join the Young Communist League or Anti - Imperialist Youth League which we had organized.

An informed source states that when he was coming to Jilin, Ri Kwang mortgaged some of his school’s ten hectares or so of land for 400 yuan for travel expenses, but I

am not sure this story is authentic. The school lands had been allocated by the state for the running of educational institutions. So if it is true that he took the risk of mortgaging such public property, he must have been very ambitious.

In a letter to his brother - in - law which he sent after he left home, he is said to have expressed the following grim resolve:

“I think I must find a true patriot even if I have to comb the whole of Manchuria and the Korean peninsula. It may take me ten years or twenty years to do this. However, I pledge myself not to return to my paternal home until I succeed.”

His determination gives us a glimpse of his character, and explains why he left his home and travelled round all the major cities and political centres of Manchuria.

Ri Kwang was honest, meticulous and resourceful. He spoke Chinese as fluently as a northeastern Chinese. Therefore, he was competent to perform the job of a headman of ten households, a hundred households, or even of a sub - county in the later days.

It was from him that I, who come from a northwestern province of Korea, learned the customs of Jiandao and Hamgyong Province.

While in Jilin, for some unknown reasons Ri Kwang did not wish to join us in the organizational life. He was probably in the mood of a traveller who was only stopping over at Jilin. However, he frequently kept company with me. Later, through me, he became a close friend of my mother.

He met my mother when he was returning to Jiandao after studying in Jilin. Before his departure he came to see me and as he took his farewell, he casually said:

“Song Ju, when I return to Jiandao I wish to drop in at Fusong to see your mother. Do you mind?”

“No. It isn’t like you, Ri Kwang, to ask about such a thing. If you want to see her, you should go to see her. Why should you need my permission?” I was grateful to him for his suggestion.

“So you agree. Good! I will see your mother as I have decided to. Everyone follows your mother’s lead and calls her ‘our mother,’ but I haven’t even made a courtesy call on her. How impolite I have been! Why should she be mother only to Kim Hyok and Kye Yong Chun, and not to me?”

“Thank you, Ri Kwang! Now my mother will have another son. From today we are brothers.”

“Then, we should drink a toast together, or at least make a visit to the noodle shop together, shouldn’t we?”

Needless to say, we did both.

He paid a visit to my mother at Fusong, spending a few days in her company, before going to Wangqing. In those days his family was living in Wangqing County, not at Yilangou in Yanji County.

After Ri Kwang left Fusong, mother sent me a letter, telling me a lot about him. The letter said:

“Song Ju, Ri Kwang left today for Jiandao. I saw him off at the ferry on the River Songhua. I feel so lonely, just as I did when I said goodbye to you, that I don’t feel like working today. He is so affable! Strange to say, I feel as if he were one of my own sons. He himself said that he felt as if I were his own mother. My heart overflows as I think of taking more and more sturdy boys under my wing as the days pass by. Can there be any greater pleasure than this in the world? You have introduced a really fine boy to me. He took Chol Ju with him to Yangdicun, paid obeisance at father’s grave and cropped the weeds on the mound. Many of your friends have been to my home, and I know many young men, but this is the first time I have met such a lovable boy as Ri Kwang. I hope your friendship will thrive like the green pines on the southern hill.”

On the day I received the letter I walked in buoyant mood on the bank of the River Songhua all day long. The joy my mother expressed in every line of the letter affected me greatly. If she was happy, I was happy; and if she was satisfied, I was satisfied. If meeting Ri Kwang gave her such great satisfaction, I was equally delighted.

After Ri Kwang left Jilin, I received a money order from the post office.

Many people assisted me financially while I attended the Yuwen Middle School in Jilin, as I have mentioned on various occasions. Those who gave me money for my school expenses were mostly my father’s friends such as O Tong Jin, Son Jong Do, Ryang Se Bong, Jang Chol Ho and Hyon Muk Gwan, who lived in Jilin or came frequently to report to the headquarters of the Jonguibu from the bases of the Independence Army, for instance, from Liuhe, Xingjing, Fusong and Huadian.

My patrons in my Jilin days included members of the Young Communist League and the Ryugil Association of Korean Students in Jilin. Sin Yong Gun, who was working as an activist of the Young Communist League while attending the Wenguang Middle School, also contributed to my school expenses, though he was far from rich. As I have already mentioned, in those days my mother earned only five to ten fen a day by taking, in sewing. If she earned ten fen a day on average, her monthly earning was three yuan, which was just enough to pay my monthly school fees at the Yuwen Middle School.

She did not send me the school expenses by post, in order to save the cost of postage. She used to save her daily earnings until she had enough for the monthly school fees and then send them with someone she knew travelling to Jilin. This saved

me the trouble of calling at the post office.

I used to accept the money from my mother with mixed feelings. There was a feeling of relief at not having to worry about being disgraced by failing to pay my school fees; but there was also a feeling of concern for my family, who would have to get by without any money.

In fact, three yuan was a trifling amount, scarcely enough for a rich man's son to buy himself lunch. Most of the students at the Yuwen Middle School came from rich families. Sometimes scores of money orders, which we called "slips," would arrive for the rich men's sons at school in a single day. On these occasions the children of poor people like myself, who scarcely knew what a money order looked like, went about in low spirits.

In this context, the arrival of ten yuan for me, one of the poor students, was a great event.

As I took the money order to the post office, I tried to guess who might have sent it.

But I could not think of any relations or acquaintances who could send me so much money at one time. The only person who might send money to me at Jilin was my mother, but it would be impossible for her to send so much. I thought the money might have come to the wrong person because of a mistake by the clerk at the post office, but such a mistake seemed very unlikely.

If a person who received a money order could not name the sender at the post office, the clerk could refuse to pay. On that day, however, the clerk paid without even asking me the sender's name. Instead, I asked the clerk who had sent the order. "It is from Ri Kwang!" the voice behind the partition replied. I was surprised: I had many closer friends than Ri Kwang, even though we had become close friends by the time he left Jilin. I had never imagined that he would send me money.

I was deeply moved by his generosity.

While he was in Wangqing, Ri Kwang frequently visited my home, bringing many packages of medicine and money for my mother who was living at Xinglongcun, Antu County. The money was his monthly savings from his wages as the headman of a hundred households. He was extremely kind - hearted and charitable to the needy.

He used to stay at my mother's for several days, helping her around the house, and then returning to Wangqing. He became a welcome regular visitor to my family.

Whenever I received financial support I regretted my inability to return the kindness. My family was too poor to pay the money back. I resolved to repay my friends and colleagues by becoming a loyal son of the country and a faithful servant of my fellow people.

In the winter of 1929, Ri Kwang took a train from Dunhua to Jilin in order to visit me. I was in prison at the time. He had timed his journey badly.

Instead of meeting me, he made the acquaintance of Kong Suk Ja, a waitress at the inn where he was lodging, and from her he learned the details of the youth and student movement in Jilin, including the way in which the leaders were guiding the movement. While assuming the guise of a waitress, Kong Suk Ja, on assignment from the Young Communist League, maintained a liaison between us and the young men who came to Jilin to visit us. She later became Ri Kwang's second wife as a result of their acquaintance at the inn. His first wife, Kim Orinnyo, died of illness.

Ri Kwang was determined not to marry again, so deep was his grief over his wife's death. He believed that no woman would make a better wife than her because they had been devoted to each other. Within a year of her death, many women had offered him their hands, but he would not even glance at them.

Whenever we met him, his friends and I tried to persuade Ri Kwang to get married, at least for the sake of his infirm parents and his little son. Dissuading him from his resolution proved more difficult than pressing resin from dry wood. It was only after three years of mourning for Kim Orinnyo that he accepted my advice. His second wife Kong Suk Ja was good - natured, wise and virtuous. She raised the orphaned child with such great care that she won everyone's admiration. The child, too, regarded her as his own mother. Unfortunately, Kong Suk Ja had no children of her own.

Although he could not meet me when I was in prison, with the help of Kong Suk Ja Ri Kwang made close friends with young people attending the Yuwen Middle School and the Normal School in Jilin who were committed to the movement. The Jilin organization convinced Ri Kwang that all the patriotic forces must first be united in the cause of national independence, and that in order to unite the patriotic forces there must be an idea and a line which would serve as their common banner, as well as a centre of unity and cohesion. He returned to Jiandao convinced of this.

Ri Kwang's stay in Jilin was a turning - point in his revolutionary activity. As a result he was put under surveillance by the secret agents of the Japanese consulate and the Manchurian police, but he was never afraid of them and continued courageously along his new course of action.

The autumn and spring struggles were important events which proved the correctness of the lessons he had learned in Jilin. His world-view made a leap to still greater heights as a result of these struggles.

After he moved to Wangqing, Ri Kwang worked as the subcounty head at Beihamatang. The fact that a man who had declared his commitment to the great cause of revolution and regarded it as his exclusive ideal, was appointed as an official at the lowest rung of the enemy's administrative hierarchy was an event worthy of considerable interest.

I met Ri Kwang again at Mingyuegou in December 1931.

At that time he was occupied with providing bed and board for the representatives to the meeting at Mingyuegou that winter. When I saw him appear at the meeting place with a knapsack full of foxtail millet and with five pheasants hanging over his shoulders, I was moved to admiration, and thought that he was a man worthy of his name.

The starch noodles, a speciality of Jiandao, with a sauce of minced pheasant and chicken were so delicious that we could not resist the temptation of asking for a second helping.

After Ri Kwang and I each ate two bowls of noodles at the same table, we lay in the front room of Ri Chong San's house with wooden pillows under our heads, talking through the night.

First of all, I thanked him heartily for helping my mother in her household affairs and also for sending me money for my school expenses.

"While I was eating the noodles tonight, I thought a lot. The efforts you put into preparing the meat sauce moved me to tears. While I was studying in Jilin you often took me to restaurants. I don't know how I can repay your kindness...."

When he heard me say this, he tapped me on my shoulder.

"Don't mention it. I have helped your family out of my desire to contribute to the independence movement to which your father dedicated his whole life. How hard you have been working directing the youth and student movement! It's only natural to contribute a little money to such a patriotic family as yours.... Don't mention it again."

He pretended to be angry, and gestured threateningly at me with his hand.

This made me keenly aware of another aspect of his beautiful character.

"Ri Kwang, don't be too modest. Kindness should be repaid. I must thank you again, and also on my mother's behalf. Frankly, I had no idea you would give us such wholehearted support."

"I didn't suppose you would. But Song Ju, I have my reasons for doing it."

"What are your reasons?"

"One day your mother told me how she was married to your father, as if it were an old folk tale. She said that arranging the marriage had been by no means easy."

"I know that. My two brothers and I heard about it from my mother after her husband passed away. It was a really tearful story."

This story takes us back to the years before the “annexation of Korea by Japan.” A distance of about two miles lay between my mother’s home at Chilgol and father’s home at Namri, with a low hill standing between the two villages. Travellers from Namri to Pyongyang had to go by way of Chilgol. And those from Chilgol to Nampho had to pass by Namri. The people of the two villages were on good terms and visited each other frequently. This led to many of them being related by marriage.

My maternal grandfather was looking for a suitable person for a son - in - law from Namri and the first young man that attracted the old man’s interest was none other than my father. When a matchmaker had begun to come and go between the two houses, mother’s father came first to my father’s house at Namri to see him. However, he returned to Chilgol undecided, because the young man’s family was living in dire poverty, although he thought the young man himself was acceptable. If his daughter was married to such a poor family she would have to suffer hardship all her life, the old man thought. But even after that he visited my father as many as five times.

My father’s family, being destitute, were not able to serve a proper lunch to this person who might become an in - law, on any of his six visits.

Only after the sixth visit did my mother’s father consult with his wife and send a letter agreeing to the engagement.

“Song Ju, this story has given me a better understanding of your family. You will be surprised if I tell you that I knew of the crab incident, won’t you?”

I was, indeed, surprised to hear Ri Kwang mention the crab affair. This was an old family event of which only a few members including mother, grandfather Po Hyon, and I myself knew.

“Oh! How do you know about that?”

“Surely you can guess how close I have become with your family members, can’t you?” Ri Kwang pretended to be elated at seeing me so surprised.

At the age of six or seven, during the childhood days I spent at Mangyongdae, I began catching crabs. My grandfather used to catch a lot of crabs to eke out a poor living. The Sunhwa River, a tributary of the Taedong River, was teeming with crabs, and whenever he went catching crabs, grandfather always took me with him. Perhaps he wanted to teach me the skills needed to eke out a living from childhood. Although they were despised by rich people, to us these crabs were delicious when they were salted.

Crab catching was a quite simple and monotonous task. You just needed to lower well - boiled ears of sorghum into the water and then pull them out some time later; we found clusters of crabs clinging to the ears. We used to catch scores or hundreds of them a day, and no words could tell how happy we were as we returned home

carrying the catch in mesh bags.

The crabs improved our meals a lot. Whenever we had a guest, my grandmother would take salted crabs out of a jar to serve the visitor. On such occasions I used to think how good it would be if we could serve them to my mother's parents. For me my mother's maiden home in Chilgol was a mysterious world, a focus of infinite love and sympathy. I liked the homely smell of the boiled cattle fodder steaming in the stable, and I loved to hear the twittering of the birds on the branches of the jujube trees in the garden. I also was fascinated by the old tales that were told on the straw mats, as I sniffed at the scented smoke of the moxa, burning to keep away mosquitoes on summer nights.

My mother's sister would tell me not to forget Chilgol because I was born there. Perhaps my mother spent some time at her maiden home before she gave birth to me. But my grandparents always said that my birthplace was Namri. They said that my mother stayed for several days at her parents' home at about the time I was born, but that was no reason for me to be known as a boy from Chilgol. A woman might give birth to a baby away from home, they said, but according to ancestral law the home of the child's father should be considered to be its birthplace.

In any case, I liked my mother's maiden home as much as my father's home, and I felt this very strongly when I was catching crabs.

When I was studying at the Changdok School at Chilgol, I would return to Mangyongdae on Sundays to go crab catching with my grandfather.

One day I hid half of the catch in a nearby bush before I showed the mesh bag to grandfather. He was saddened by the small catch, but I pretended not to hear his expressions of regret. Of course, I should have told him the truth, that I had put aside half the catch for my mother's side of the family. But I was not sure whether he would like it or not, so I hesitated. After I took the mesh bag home for him, I went to the Sunhwa River again and took the other half of the catch to Chilgol. My maternal relations were glad to see the crabs, and thanked me for the present. I told them that thanks were due to grandpa Po Hyon, who had caught the crabs.

One day my maternal grandfather came to Mangyongdae and thanked grandpa Po Hyon for the crabs, which he said were delicious.

At first grandpa Po Hyon was embarrassed by the unexpected thanks, but when he heard the whole truth he was pleased.

Later he praised me for being a very considerate boy.

This was the incident mentioned by Ri Kwang, an anecdote of poverty and a drama of kindness.

However, Ri Kwang seemed to have interpreted this story in a different light, not as

an act of kindness.

“After I heard the stories of the marriage and the crabs, I began to feel sympathy for your family,” Ri Kwang said.

I was deeply moved by his consideration.

“Ri Kwang, how do you like the job of sub - county head?”

I had wanted to know this ever since I had come to central Manchuria. A report from the political workers in the Jiandao area, whom I had sent to east Manchuria, said that Ri Kwang, in whom I was most interested, had been working as a sub - county head in Wangqing.

He smiled at my question.

“It is irksome, but I’ve done quite well at it. Last autumn some of our comrades were held in custody at Hamatang by the defence corps, but they were released when I gave them a reference. The authority of a sub - county head seems to have been effective.”

He said jokingly that if he were allowed, he would like to be a sub-county head all his life.

I talked proudly about my home village, and Ri Kwang joked.

“If Mangyongdae is such a beautiful place, I will follow you there with my family after the country becomes independent.”

“Not to Jongsong? I heard that you come from Jongsong.”

“I can make myself at home anywhere so long as I feel attached to a place, even though I was not born there. Anyway, if I do go there, please help me to find a place where I can teach primary schoolchildren. You’ll be a schoolmaster and I will work under you as a teacher.”

“Oh, my! I hate teaching at primary school...”

“Oh, really! I heard that you taught at Antu or Guyushu. And your father was a teacher for many years, I heard.”

Our friendship grew deeper when we were organizing the special detachment.

Immediately after he organized a special detachment at Wangqing on our advice, Ri Kwang came to Xiaoshahe to see me. The hostile activities of the national salvation army against Korean communists and young patriots were a great obstacle to the efforts of our comrades in Wangqing to prepare for the founding of the Anti - Japanese

People's Guerrilla Army. Even after he had organized a special detachment, Ri Kwang was still left in suspense, unable to decide the future direction of his activities.

At that time I told him about my views on matters of principle and the means of forming a united front with the Chinese nationalist anti - Japanese units, and I discussed about the goals and methods of the special detachment's activities with him in detail.

He accepted my proposals with an open mind.

Foxtail millet mixed with sorghum, bean paste soup, and dry wild vegetables were the only food that my mother could afford at that period, but she still accorded him cordial hospitality. And he respected my mother greatly, too. Mother's warm love moved him and his youthful enthusiasm and his simple and honest mind were a comfort to my mother.

It was while Ri Kwang was staying at Xinglongcun that we founded the Anti - Japanese People's Guerrilla Army. Though she was ill, my mother came with Chol Ju to see the guerrilla army. Stroking the rifle which Ri Kwang was shouldering, she said; "With these weapons you can fight in real earnest now. How can the Independence Army fight the Japanese with outmoded weapons? Now as I see your army and the weapons on your shoulders, I feel as if my life-long grievances had been resolved. How glad your mothers would be to see you as you are now! Mothers' hearts are broken and they weep if their sons act like fools or behave badly, but they would be delighted and moved to tears if they could see their sturdy sons under arms ready to fight for their country."

Back at Wangqing, Ri Kwang worked hard with the national salvation army.

Our success in achieving cooperation with Commander Yu at Antu provided valuable experience in work with the Chinese nationalist anti - Japanese units. At first this work went comparatively smoothly and successfully.

Many of these anti - Japanese units were enthusiastic about forming an anti - imperialist united front with us.

We communists took the initiative in forming the united front.

However, the Leftist elements obstructed this work. Their adventurist motto "Down with the upper stratum and win over the rank and file!" was a provocation to the higher echelons of the anti - Japanese units, leading to bitter resistance and resentment, and many of the commanders of these units began to take measures against the communists, repressing or even killing them.

It was something to be wholeheartedly welcomed in this situation that Ri Kwang started working among the anti - Japanese units.

In order to work with these units, Ri Kwang moved from Beihamatang to Taipinggou.

In those days I often visited his house at Taipinggou. The village of Taipingcun, with about three hundred peasant households, was located at the geographical centre of a delta connecting Xiaowangqing, Yaoyinggou, and Laoheishan. It was not far from the Soviet - Manchurian border. From this village it was about six miles to Luozigou. All of the major assembly areas of the national salvation army units were located near Taipinggou. Ri Kwang's special detachment was at Jianchanggou, a little more than one mile from the town of Luozigou.

His house was perched on the sloping river - bank, isolated from the village of Taipinggou. There was an imposing well with a large water dipper by the house, which was known as the house with a dipper. I drank from this well on several occasions. When we appeared in front of the house on hot summer days, streaming with sweat, Ri Kwang used to fetch a bucketful of cool water from the well and offer the water to me. The water was most refreshing.

Whenever I went to Luozigou, I used to drop in at Taipinggou to inquire after his parents. At this house, together with Chinese communists such as Zhou Bao - zhong, Chen Han - zhang, Hu Jinmin and Wang Run - cheng, we held the last meeting of the antiJapanese soldiers' committee which discussed the question of a united front with the national salvation army.

In the battle in defence of Xiaowangqing and many other large and small battles, Ri Kwang demonstrated distinct ability and capacity as a commander. The practical example he set influenced the soldiers of the national salvation army, and he became renowned as a military and political worker among the broad masses of east Manchuria.

Wu Yi - cheng, who regarded Ri Kwang's special detachment as a genuinely anti - Manchukuo and anti - Japanese armed force, appointed him commanding officer of the security squad under the forward headquarters of the national salvation army, and even gave him bodyguards.

After that Ri Kwang established contact with Tong Shan - hao in order to develop further cooperation with the national salvation army against the Japanese.

Though he had taken up arms to fight the Japanese, Tong Shanhao had degenerated into a bandit. In those days, many people identified the bandits with the mounted rebels as, indeed, they still do.

There had been many mounted rebels in Manchuria. When a large number of people of the Han nationality flowed into Manchuria through Shanhaiguan from China proper in the closing years of the Qing dynasty, the Manchurian people began arming in self-defence to protect their farmland and their ancestral heritage from the plundering immigrants. This was the origin of Manchuria's righteous rebels, whom the Japanese called mounted rebels.

Unlike the scattered bands of sordid highwaymen, the mounted rebels regarded themselves as just soldiers, acting in accordance with their own code of conduct and refraining from plundering people's property. The mounted rebels' society was an insurgent society, far removed from the central political authorities.

The life of the mounted rebels was inconceivable without arms. They had lived by carrying arms for a long time, and such a life inspired feelings of envy and admiration. The people in Manchuria would say openly, "Going on the streets is for women and rebelling against the authorities is for men."

Naturally, the rebels did not always in fact abide by their own strict code of conduct. Many mounted rebels degenerated into bandits in the course of their outlaw existence. There were many groups of mounted troops, which were difficult to identify as either righteous rebels or mere bandits. Many bandits behaved as if they were righteous rebels. Groups of bandits in the guise of righteous rebels accepted political bribes from imperialist aggressors and warlords, murdering people and committing atrocities beyond all imagination.

When many commanders of the national salvation army became indignant and hostile to the communists because the Leftist tactics of "down with the upper stratum" were applied in work with Chinese nationalist anti - Japanese units, the strategists of Japanese imperialism understood this fact very quickly and used it to sow discord among the anti - Japanese forces. They were skilled in the notorious method of getting the anti - Japanese forces to fight among themselves, sniping at and destroying each other.

The Japanese imperialists employed this method when they urged Tong Shan - hao to massacre all the members of Ri Kwang's special detachment.

At first, they tried to get him to surrender. They put up notices everywhere stating that the person who captured Ri Kwang would be rewarded with lots of money, and that if Ri Kwang himself surrendered he would receive an important appointment. In their judgement, in order to disband Wu Yi - cheng's army it was imperative to check the influence of the communists on it, and Ri Kwang was the man who wielded that influence. Ri Kwang's special detachment was regarded as a united - front shock force operating in the heart of the national salvation army. Thus the Japanese intelligence service was aware of his true significance and role.

Tong Shan - hao, the worst of the bandits, was politically an obtuse, brutal and capricious man, and was easily bribed by the Japanese strategists. Knowing the views Ri Kwang supported, he baited a trap by proposing negotiations for a joint operation at Laoheishan, in accordance with a script prepared by the Japanese imperialists.

Ri Kwang made the mistake of taking the bait. Not knowing that Tong Shan - hao had become a running dog of Japanese imperialism, he set out for Laoheishan with

more than ten members of his special detachment, including Wang Cheng - fu, the chief secretary of the forward headquarters of the national salvation army. The party organization warned him against the danger of dealing with a blind and brutal bandit commander. Ri Kwang, however, insisted on going to negotiate, even at the risk of his life, saying that if the line of the anti - imperialist united front was not implemented, it would be impossible for the revolution to advance any further.

Tong Shan - hao held a banquet for Ri Kwang's party and then massacred all of them except one, who narrowly escaped death. When the bandits fled, they left him at the site of the massacre, thinking he was dead like the others. When we got there we saved him. But he, too, died in battle later, in the woods between Luozigou and Laoheishan.

Ri Kwang was killed at the age of twenty - eight in a mountain hut near Laoheishan. His error was lack of vigilance. In order to form a united front with Tong Shan - hao, he needed to transform him ideologically. But he tried to effect a united front merely by making friends with him.

I grieved over his death.

I was on fire with the desire to take immediate revenge on the Tong Shan - hao clique. Had it not been for the voice of reason which told me that organizing a common front with the Chinese nationalist anti - Japanese units was the duty of the communists at that time, their primary task and general strategy, I would have given way to the impulse and plunged into a bloody battle of vengeance.

The whole of east Manchuria condemned the nefarious crime committed by Tong Shan - hao, and cried out for justice to be done. Leftist hooligans complained that the army did not retaliate against the class enemy who had murdered Ri Kwang. Some people claimed that it was a Rightist deviation not to strike against Tong Shan - hao.

Ri Kwang's death was an irretrievable loss to the communist effort for an anti - imperialist common front. We lost a precious comrade worth more than a thousand enemy soldiers. The enemy had taken away from me yet another prop and mainstay of the Korean revolution.

I felt as if my own flesh had been torn away. I bit my lips to suppress my cries, I was obsessed by my thoughts. In the year since we started the war against Japanese, how many comrades - in arms had already been taken from my side! Why had my friends departed one after another, never to return, as soon as we became attached to each other? Was this the work of destiny?

As I strode with clenched fists, up and down the bank of the River Xiaowangqing, where Ri Kwang and I had discussed the strategy of the great anti - Japanese war, I cursed again and again the cruel fate that had driven me into this abyss of grief. Then I came to a decision:

Ri Kwang's death must not be pointless. If I succeeded in establishing the united front with the Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese units to which he devoted such great efforts and so much energy, then he too would be delighted, though in his grave.

Ri Kwang's death drove me to speed up the negotiations with Wu Yi - cheng. It did not make me flinch from the path to the united front, but urged me on along it.

I had to visit Wu Yi - cheng! If I could succeed in negotiations with him, I would be able to avenge Ri Kwang's death.

With this in mind, I speeded up the daylight march to Luozigou. I dropped in at Taipingcun to console Ri Kwang's bereaved family. His wife Kong Suk Ja spread her arms wide to stop me. "General, you must not go there. It is not the place you should go to. My husband went there and...."

General, please don't go there for God's sake."

But strangely enough, her tearful warning only urged me on to complete the daylight march.

The woman's shoulders heaved up and down as she held a seven - or eight - year old boy in her arms, and wiped the tears from her eyes.

The boy in her arms was Ri Po Chon, Ri Kwang's own son. The boy also stared at me with his eyes brimming over with tears. Whenever I went there, Ri Po Chon, who would be playing on the porch, used to call out to me "Uncle Song Ju!" and come out of the gate. One day he pestered me with a request to make a grasshopper for him.

When I saw Po Chon run out to the road led by her mother, I regretted that I had not done this for him. How good it would have been now if he had clung to me, asking for the grasshopper as he had before!

How much happier I would feel even if the boy had not dared to ask, but simply climbed up on my shoulders like the innocent child of former days, who used to call me "Uncle" and beg me to let him ride on my shoulders!

But Po Chon was weeping silent bitter tears. Ri Po Chon at my side was not a friendly, cheerful and mischievous boy, but a downcast and fearful child suffering great distress, a person who had bid farewell to his boyhood and its rainbow illusions. His father's death had destroyed the boy's world of playful fancy in which his greatest desire was for a grasshopper. In this way, Po Chon lost both his parents before he was ten years old.

Po Chon would never again ask me for the grasshopper. His tender soul was grieving over the tragic death of his father.

I gazed into his face helplessly.

The words were on the tip of my tongue: "Po Chon, good - bye! I will return soon when I take vengeance for your father on his enemy."

Instead, I said, "Po Chon, I'm thirsty. Whenever I came here your father used to bring me a bowl of cold water, but today you can do it for your father, can't you?"

At that moment, his dreamy eyes suddenly became animated and he darted off like the wind, reappearing just as swiftly with a brass bowlful of water from the well with the large dipper. This small event seemed to transform his mental state.

The rippling water in the brass bowl revived Ri Kwang's image in my mind. The intermingled images of the boy and his father reflected on the surface of the water moved me to tears.

Mentally thanking the boy I gulped the water until the bowl was dry.

Po Chon wiped his nose and glanced at me lovingly as he held the bowl in his hand.

I felt a little light - hearted as I ordered my men to resume the march. Just as I was about to take my leave, Po Chon darted towards his house.

I wondered where he was going.

He ran back quickly, and held out a handful of oats to my white horse. This silent gesture released the tears that I had been holding back.

Po Chon stood there on the riverside as we crossed the river and moved far away. When I turned my head as I sat on the saddle all I could see was a flickering white dot.

"Po Chon, you must grow up to be a revolutionary like your father!"

I held my hand up in salute from afar, wishing him a bright future. Later, when the guerrilla zones were dissolved and the second expedition to north Manchuria was begun, I stayed at Ri Kwang's house for about one week and discussed Po Chon's future with Kong Suk Ja.

Po Chon grew up into a revolutionary as I had wished. When he was working at Linkou as a railway worker, he attacked a Japanese military train, but he was captured and served a two - year prison sentence. This was all before he was twenty years old.

With the liberation of the country in 1945 he was released and travelled to the land of his forefathers via Dandong in the autumn of the same year, craving to see his native land and sky and water. He travelled as far as Pyongyang and Seoul, and then returned to Linkou. That journey left vivid impressions on the mind of Ri Po

Chon, a sensitive twenty - year old with a bright future.

Feeling an irresistible desire to devote himself heart and soul to the construction of the country of his father's friends, he crossed the railway bridge over the Amnok River with reluctance. In the motherland there was the new world of which his father had dreamed, the promised land which he himself had longed for since his boyhood.

But this promised land was engulfed in the flames of war five years later, as the young Republic fought a decisive battle for survival.

At the news of the war that was raging far away, Ri Po Chon, now a company commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, volunteered for action and joined the Korean People's Army on the Korean front. To our great sorrow he fell in battle in the autumn of 1950 while fighting as a commanding officer in a mechanized army division.

Later, in the 1970s, Kim Jong Il, Secretary in Charge of Organizational Affairs, who took a particular interest in Ri Kwang's fiery career and his revolutionary activity, instructed film workers to produce a film entitled In the First Armed Unit, based on Ri Kwang's life. Since then Ri Kwang's name has been known to the entire country.

Kong Suk Ja, Ri Kwang's wife, died while fighting as a member of the sewing unit in the guerrilla army.

Ri Ju Phyong, Ri Kwang's father, who worked in support of the revolutionary army with an enthusiasm fuelled by grief over the death of his son, and Ri Pong Ju, Ri Kwang's elder sister, died of illness induced by enemy torture.

We must be grateful that Ri Po Chon left his son with us before his death. The son is advancing stoutly along the path that was pioneered by his grandfather's generation and transformed into a broad highway by his father's generation.

Ri Kwang's family has thus been serving in the revolutionary army for three generations. For a family to have fought under arms for three generations is just cause for noble pride. We must admire Ri Kwang's grandson for choosing to wear military uniform as heir to his grandfather and father, instead of working in other fields.

When this young officer, whose face, bearing and gait so resembled his grandfather's, first appeared before my eyes, together with his mother, I felt a lump rise in my throat, for it seemed as though Ri Kwang, who left our side 60 years ago had returned to visit me.

Ri Po Chon's wife, who lost her husband at the age of 25, has brought up her son, trusting for more than 40 years that he would be a stalwart heir to Ri Kwang's cause and his revolutionary spirit. Her devotion merits everyone's highest commendation.

At his meeting with me Ri Po Chon's son said that he was resolved to dedicate himself and his son and daughters to me and Marshal Kim Jong Il, that they would serve with loyal devotion in military uniform. I know very well that this will not prove to be empty words. Ri Kwang's family does not use words idly.

What great work Ri Kwang would have done if he had returned alive to the liberated motherland!

Even now I occasionally ponder on this. Ri Kwang's social activity began, of course, with teaching and at Ri Chong San's house, at the time of the Mingyuegou meeting that winter, he also expressed an ambition to become a teacher.

But I think that if he had survived, to return to the liberated homeland in triumph, he would have become a soldier like Kang Kon and Choe Hyon. He was a devoted communist who always chose a difficult job.

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	https://archive.org/details/peoples-korea-today-issue-47-november-2024 Issue 47 (November 2024)	
	https://archive.org/details/peoples-korea-today-issue-48-december-2024 Issue 48 (December 2024)	
	https://archive.org/details/peoples-korea-today-issue-49-january-2025 Issue 49 (January 2025)	
	https://archive.org/details/peoples-korea-today-issue-50-february-2025 Issue 50 (February 2025)	

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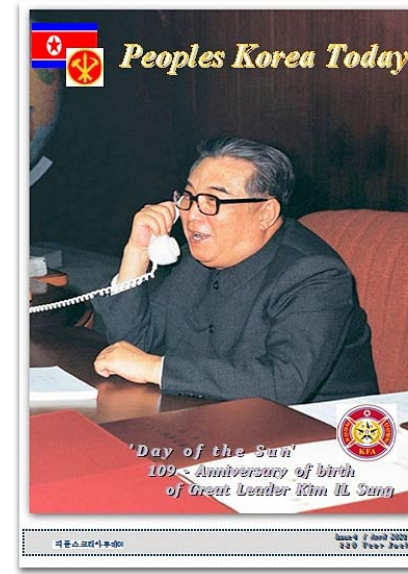
Issue 1 (January 2021)



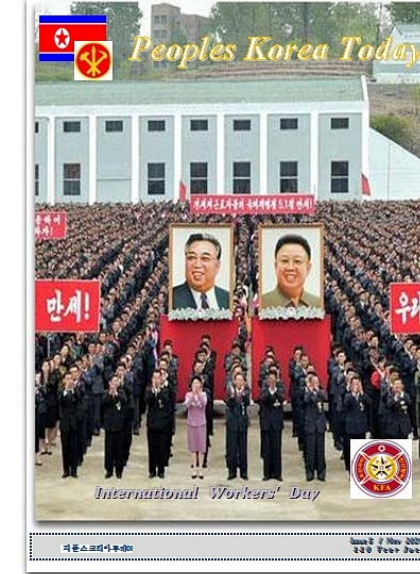
Issue 2 (February 2021)



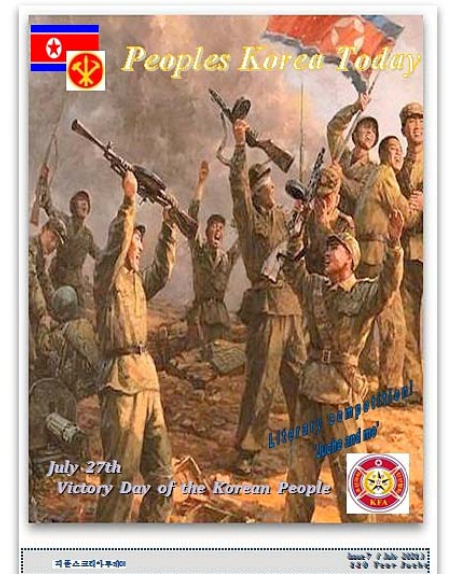
Issue 3 (March 2021)



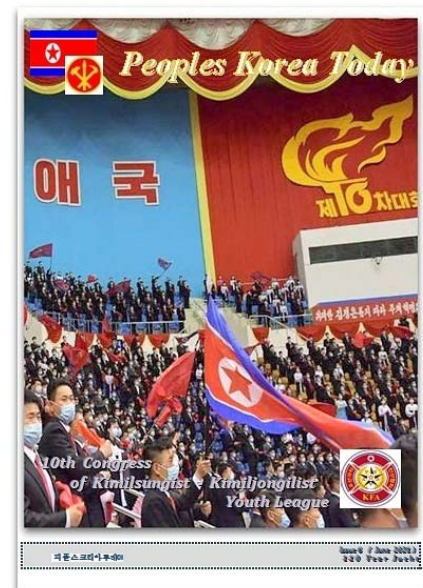
Issue 4 (April 2021)



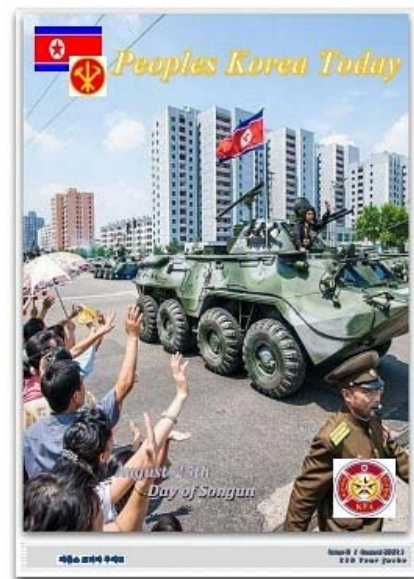
Issue 5 (May 2021)



Issue 6 (June 2021)



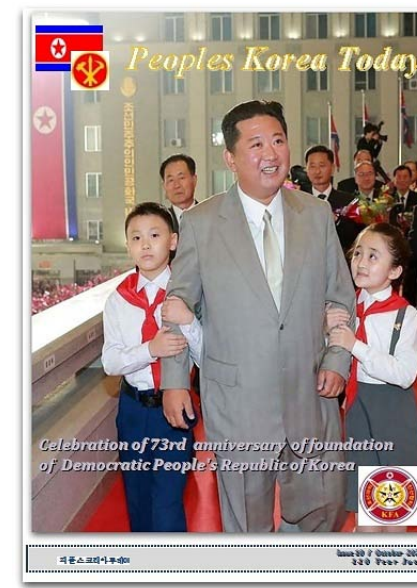
Issue 7 (July 2021)



Issue 8 (August 2021)



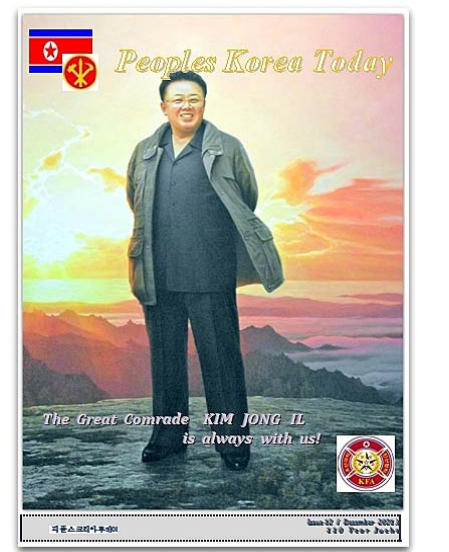
Issue 9 (September 2021)



Issue 10 (October 2021)

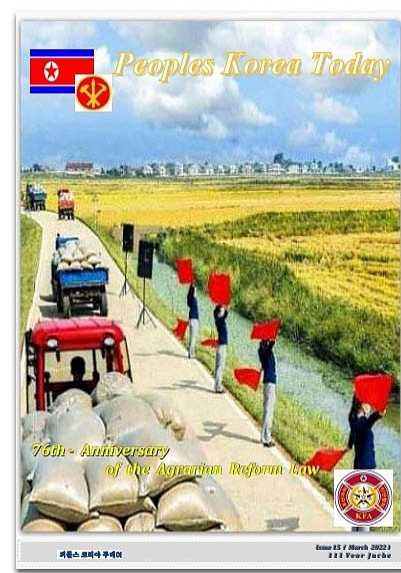
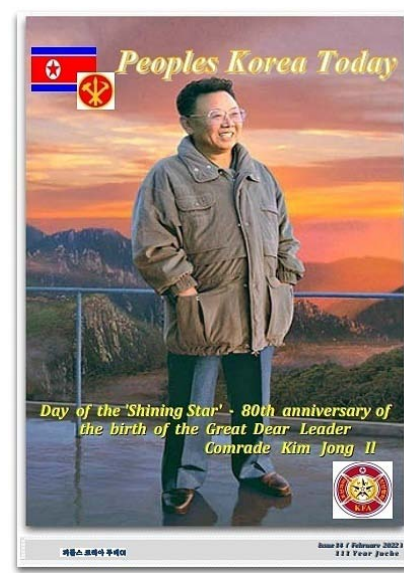
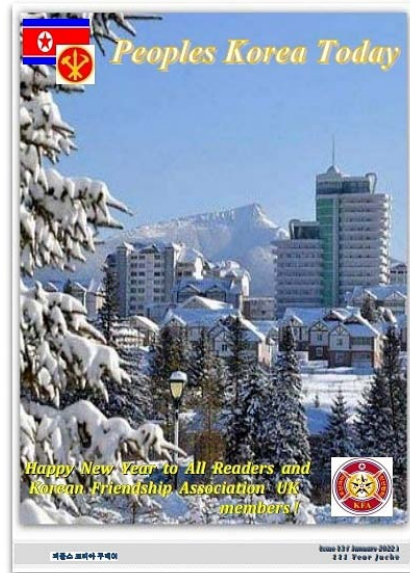


Issue 11 (November 2021)



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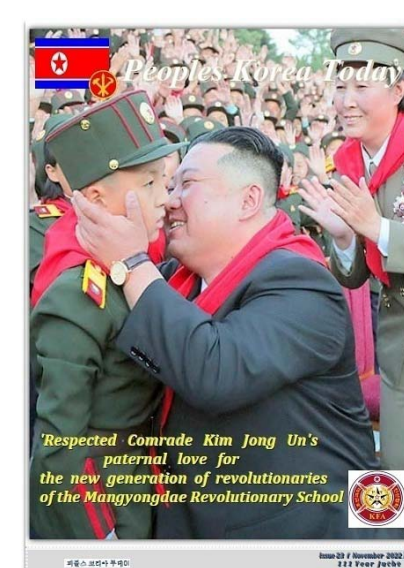
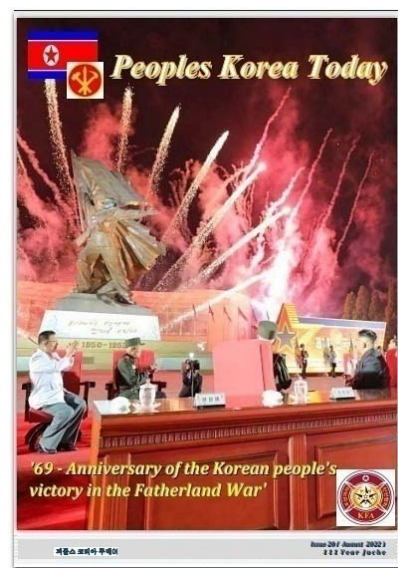
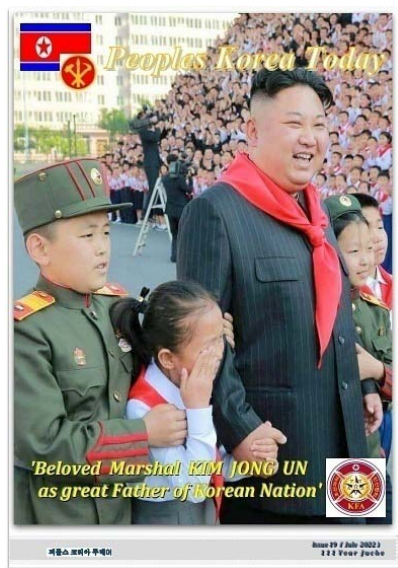
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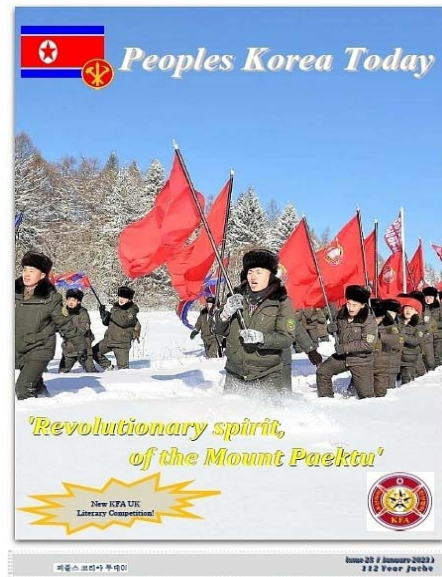
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Issue 24 (December 2022)

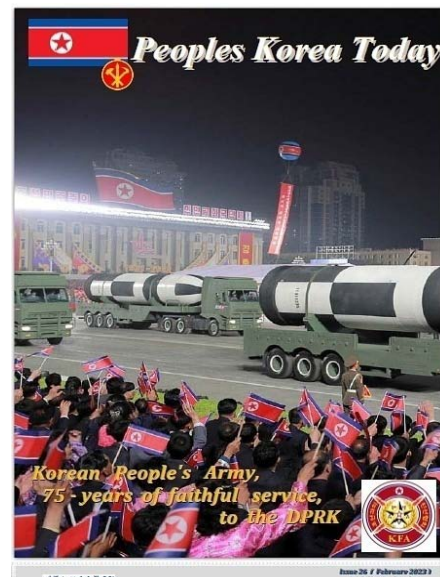
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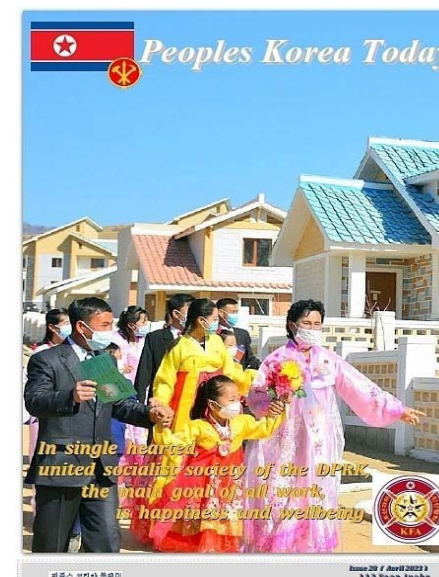
Issue 25 (January 2023)



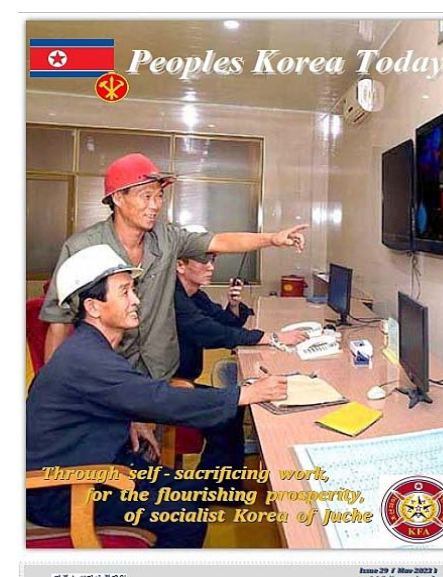
Issue 26 (February 2023)



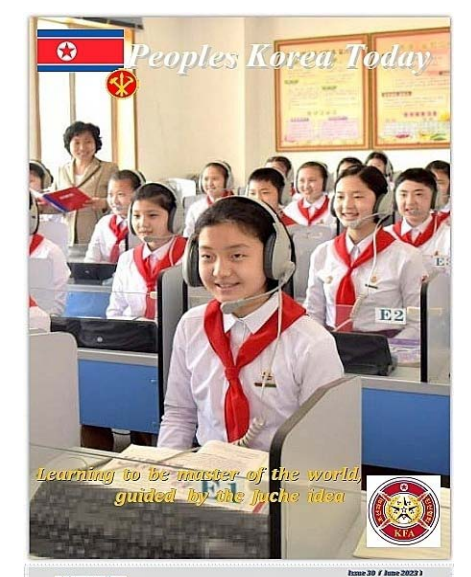
Issue 27 (March 2023)



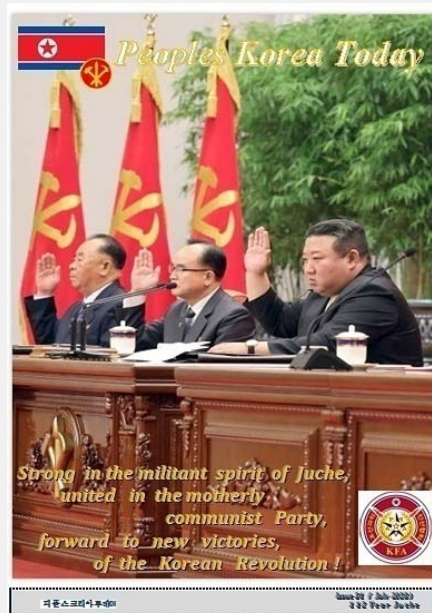
Issue 28 (April 2023)



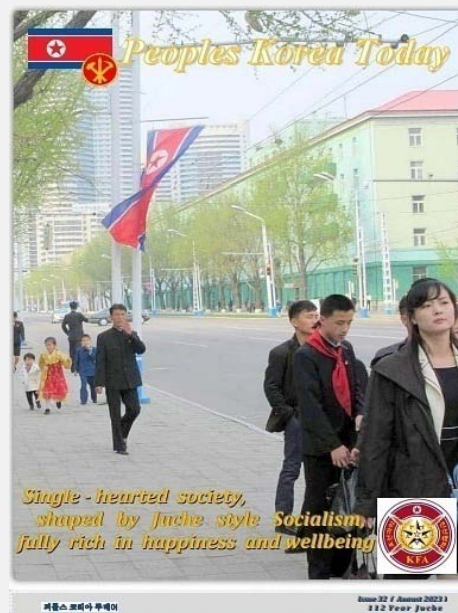
Issue 29 (May 2023)



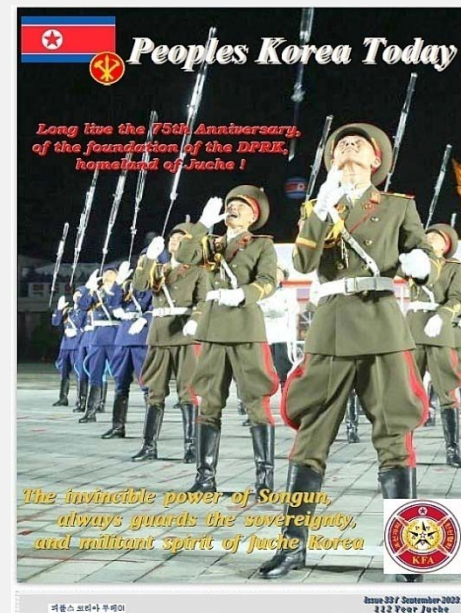
Issue 30 (June 2023)



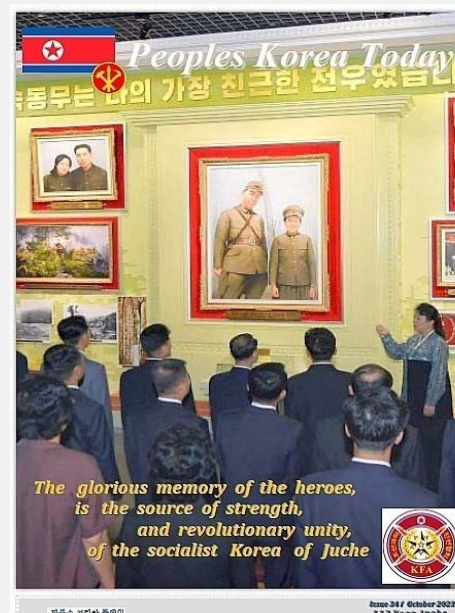
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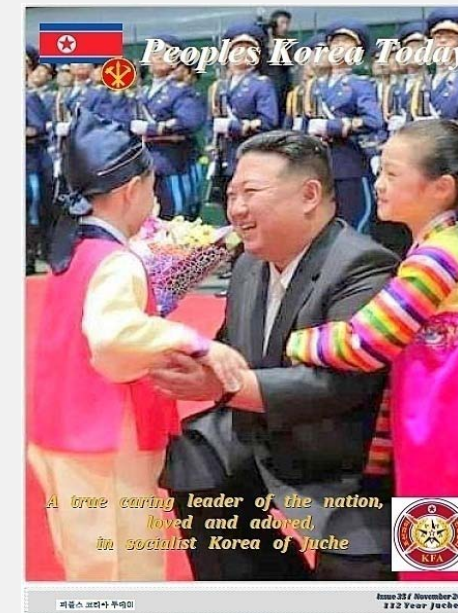
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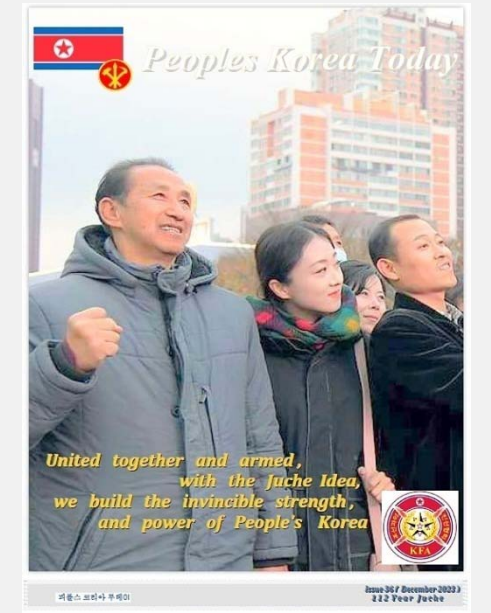
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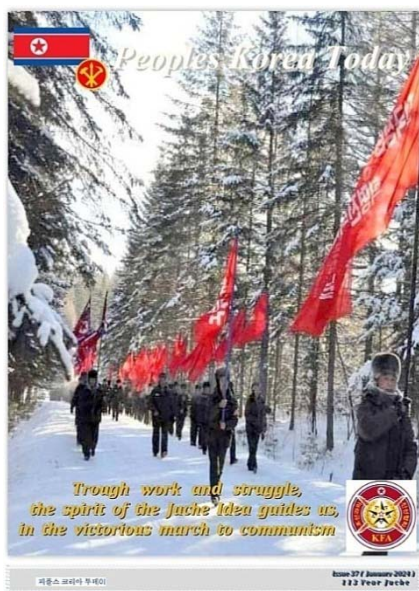


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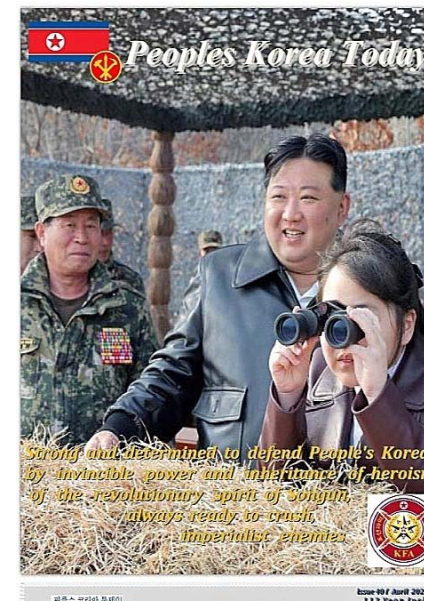
Issue 37 (January 2024)



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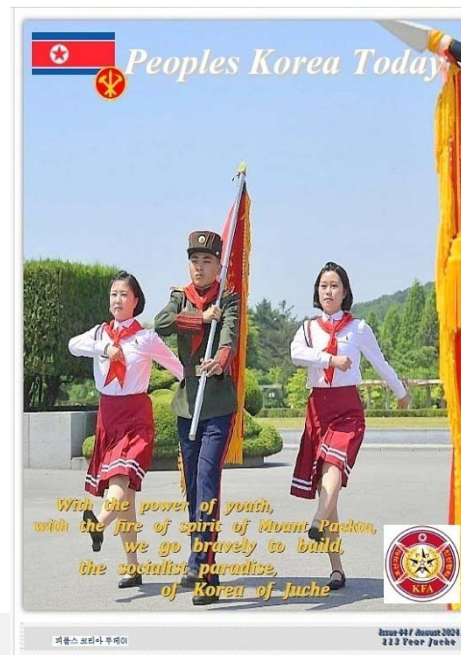
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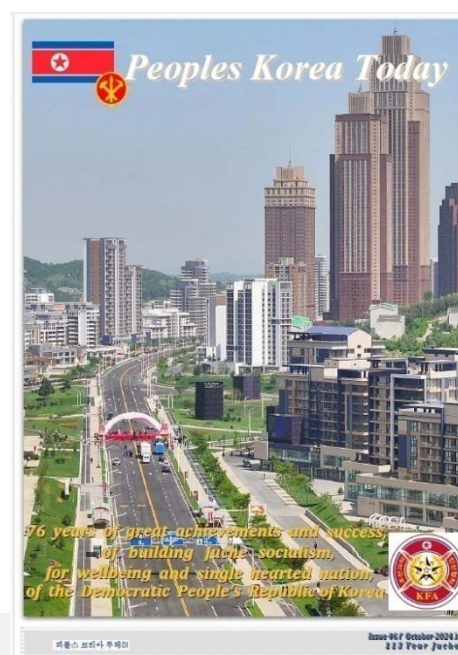
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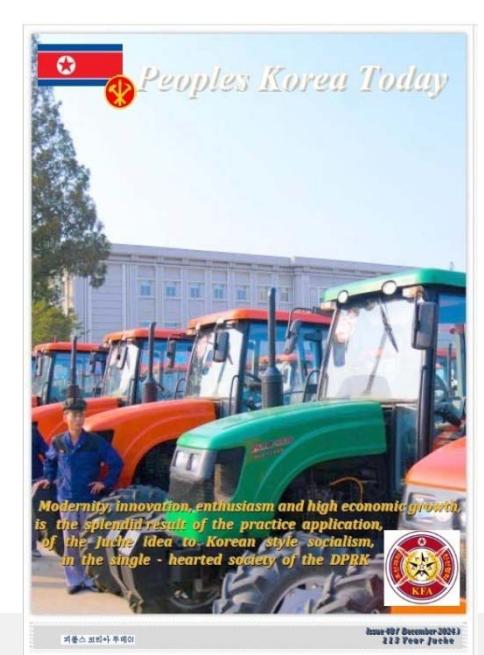
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POEM OF THE MONTH

On the Day of the Shining Star

We feel proud as Popular Masse's Dear,
no one here to justify His Excellency,
Beloved Leader is only highly decency.

A land when it got life.

The Great Leader prevented the imperialist knife.

Never touched the land to divide,
only captured the land hide.

The policy of Korean defense,
highly defeated imperialist fence.

Now the land is crying!

Wild eagle's cracking her chest as desert drying.

Kimilsungism - Kimjongilism flowers,
Blossom huge fairly fairs.

We remember the holy Mt Paektu - hut,
that's biggest shout.

Go back imperialist warriors,
others you grave your tenors.

The immortal shinning command,
never be sound end,
rest and warmest regards,
not only Korea, whole proletariat era,
will be united, and fight for undivided.

A world for popular Fanny,
a Earth of Juche country.

Ours goal will be achieved,
our global independence will be gained.

Comrade Kim Jong Un's people First Politics,
will be very decent popular ethnics.

Long live the occasion,
Live alive the immortal pronunciation.



Author : Dr M Jahangir Khan. Bangladesh



LIST OF KEYNOTE DPRK ANNIVERSARIES
DURING THE YEAR

January

8th of January

Marshal KIM JONG UN's birthday

April

25th of April

*'Day of the Sun' anniversary of the birth of the Great Leader
Comrade KIM IL SUNG
Foundation of the KPA as the Korean Revolutionary Army*

27th of April

Anniversary of Panmunjom Inter - Korean Summit

July

8th of July

*Anniversary of the passing away
of the Great Leader KIM IL SUNG*

17th of July

*Anniversary of the award of the title of Marshal
to Respected Comrade KIM JONG UN*

27th of July

Anniversary of victory in 'Fatherland Liberation War'

October

10th of October

Party Foundation Day

17th of October

*Anniversary of foundation of
'Down with Imperialism Union'*

February

8th of February

*Foundation of Korean People's Army
as a regular and standing revolutionary armed force*

16th of February

*Day of the 'Shining Star' Anniversary of the Birth
of the Great Leader Comrade KIM JONG IL*

May

1st of May

'International Worker's Day'

August

15th of August

*'Day of Songun'
(start of the Songun revolutionary leadership
of the Great Leader Comrade KIM JONG IL)*

November

13th of November

*Not a DPRK anniversary
but anniversary of the foundation
of the Korean Friendship Association*

29th of November

Anniversary of 'Hwasong - 15' test fire

March

5th of March

Anniversary of Agrarian Reform Law

8th of March

International women's Day

June

25th of June

*Anniversary of the provocation
of the Fatherland Liberation War by the US imperialists*

September

9th of September

Foundation of the Republic Day

22nd of September

*Anniversary of the passing away
of the anti - Japanese Heroine and Mother of Korea, Madame KIM JONG SUK*

December

17th of December

*Anniversary of the passing away of the Great Leader
Comrade KIM JONG IL
as a Korean People's Army Supreme Commander*

24th of December

*Anniversary of the Birth of Madame KIM JONG SUK
Anniversary of the appointment of the Great Leader Comrade KIM JONG IL*

30rd of December

*Anniversary of the appointment of Marshal KIM JONG UN
as a Korean People's Army Supreme Commander*